



Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جورديان تايمز: جريدة سياسية مستقلة، المنشورة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Hundreds died in Karabakh unrest

MOSCOW (R) — A Kremlin official said Sunday that hundreds of people had died in clashes over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and warned that the area could turn into "a homemade Lebanon" for Moscow.

"Already hundreds have died in the past year and a half in mutual clashes, pogroms, and carnage," Valery Sidorov, a member of the Kremlin committee governing the small region, said in a newspaper interview. Until now, information issued by authorities has indicated that more than 100 have died in the fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. In the interview with Argumtsy I Fakty, Sidorov gave no exact figure and no breakdown of where and when the victims died. The Kremlin committee on which Sidorov serves took over control of Nagorno-Karabakh in January after a year of unrest in and around the area. Nagorno-Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan, but its Armenian majority wants it to join Armenia. Despite the presence of thousands of Soviet Interior Ministry troops sent to both republics to restore order, Sidorov said the situation was more tense than ever, with more and more attacks on the servicemen themselves.

Iraq denies Iran's statement

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq denied Sunday an Iranian statement that the United Nations had proposed a simultaneous Iraqi troops withdrawal from Iran and repatriation of prisoners-of-war by both sides in the Gulf war. An Iranian spokesman with the U.N. mission said Saturday that Tehran accepted the proposal submitted to Iran and Iraq by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar during last month's summit of the Non-Aligned Movement. Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun told Reuters: "To our best knowledge there was no specific proposal by the secretary general during the non-aligned conference in Belgrade." The Iranian spokesman said the proposal called for a troop pull-out to internationally-recognised borders to be completed within 15 days and an exchange of prisoners, who number more than 100,000, within three months. Iran and Iraq accepted a ceasefire in their eight-year war in August 1988 but subsequent peace talks have made little headway towards reaching a comprehensive settlement.

Volume 14 Number 4202

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1989, RABIA AWWAL 2, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Al Hussein pays tribute to Tafileh

TAFILEH (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited Tafileh in southern Jordan and told a public rally there that the city constitute an important stage in the course of the Great Arab Revolt and would continue to remain so in the course of Jordan's endeavours to overcome the present difficulties and in confronting external dangers.

Through the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), Jordan hopes to fulfil the aspirations of the Great grandfathers who led the revolt and achieve the principles of that revolt in attaining unity among the Arab countries. King Hussein told the rally attended by thousands of people.

The city was bedecked with flags and decorative signs and citizens held dahkeh dances and displayed their delight at the King's visit to their town.

Jordan, the King said, is proud of its achievements, but through further determination and in cooperation with the ACC countries, it hopes to attain much bigger successes in all fields.

"This country will remain steadfast and committed to help

the Arabs achieve agreement and consensus, and its people ought to serve as an example for other Arabs by proving by word and deed their true commitment to Arab causes and Arab unity," King Hussein said. He stressed that Jordan would continue its endeavours to help the Palestinians regain their legitimate rights and homeland.

"We will work as one people and one family with one hand and one heart, and will continue the process of construction and overcome the hardships," he said.

King Hussein pledged that Jordan would pursue the march towards fulfilling the goals of the Arab Nation and serve as a shield providing protection to the Arabs in the face of external danger.

Prominent personalities from Tafileh district, including Tafileh Mayor Suleiman Hureishat, also addressed the rally.

Accompanying the King to Tafileh were Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and other officials and Cabinet members.



His Majesty King Hussein waves to crowds in Tafileh during a visit he paid to the southern town Sunday (photo by Youssef Al'Allan)

3 killed in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops killed two Palestinians Sunday and a third was beaten to death by unknown men for alleged collaboration with the Zionist state, Israeli and Palestinian sources said.

Troops shot and killed Mohammad Hali Abu Zaid, 17, with plastic bullets in a clash in the village of Arraba in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, army sources said. A second youth was wounded when soldiers opened fire.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, troops shot and wounded two youths in clashes during a general strike called by residents to mourn the killing by troops of a local man.

One of the youths, 17-year-old

Imad Al Khariq, died later in Al Ittihad hospital, officials there told Reuters.

Salab Jidalab Maslam Al Garah, 26, of Bani Suhaila village in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, was beaten to death overnight by fellow villagers, army sources said.

Palestinian sources said Garah was a known collaborator and was killed by masked activists. In Gaza, Muslim fundamentalists issued a new leaflet calling on Palestinians to escalate the uprising and to "continue to kill collaborators."

Sunday's most violent clash was reported at Gaza's Nusrat refugee camp, where troops shot and killed 17-year-old Nidal Saidam and wounded at least 11 others, including Saidam's sister

Ikram, 15, doctors said. They said Saidam died of a gunshot wound to the head.

In the Gaza Strip village of Bani Suhaila, unknown assailants armed with daggers and clubs stabbed to death Saleh Al Kera, 25, whom they accused of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities, reporters said.

"Continue to kill collaborators," urged a leaflet distributed Sunday in Gaza by the Islamic Jihad (holy war) group, "and do not give the enemy a chance for splitting us over the issue of killing collaborators."

Some Palestinian notables in the occupied lands have condemned indiscriminate slayings of suspected collaborators.

The leaflet also ordered two general strike days this month and told the Palestinians to "take to the streets of the homeland" in mass protests characteristic of the uprising's first months to give it "a new start."

The fundamentalists said Palestinian activists should continue to confiscate Israeli-issued magnetic identity cards that allow Gazans to travel to Israel.

Enforcers have confiscated some 10,000 of the 60,000 cards issued by Israel since June.

The leaflet condemned the United States and European countries for trying to put an end to the uprising, proclaiming "a new era of Islamic revolt" and "Palestine... from (Jordan) River to the sea."

King to visit Italy, Canada and U.K.

AMMAN (R) — His Majesty King Hussein will begin a three-nation foreign tour on Oct. 8, diplomats said Sunday.

They said the King would make a stopover in Italy on his way to Canada and would also visit Britain on his way home to deliver a lecture on the Middle East at Oxford University.

They gave no further details of the 10-day trip and officials were not immediately available for comment.

Diplomats said efforts to move the Arab-Israeli peace process,

the situation in Lebanon and prospects of peace between Iraq and Iran would be a focus of King Hussein's discussions with Italian, Canadian and British leaders.

Talks would also deal with bilateral ties and means to strengthen them in light of Jordan's efforts to reform its economy.

King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor have been invited to Canada by Governor-General Jeanne Sauve.

He has already been there twice, in 1978 and 1981.

Crown Prince meets Bahraini leaders

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein to the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Prince Hassan discussed with the Bahraini leader bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Arab region, as well as a number of international issues and issues of mutual interest, the

Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Prince Hassan arrived here for a short working visit Sunday and was received upon arrival by the Bahraini crown prince, cabinet ministers and senior military and civil officials.

The audience with the emir was attended by Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince Hamad Ibn Isa.

Kaifu passes first test in by-election

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu won a crucial parliamentary by-election Sunday, ensuring his own reelection as party chief and hence premier later this month.

"The victory in the Upper House by-election in Ibaraki Prefecture, north of Tokyo, will also enable Kaifu to grab some power away from elders of the ruling party over key political decisions."

These include tax and political reform as well as when to dissolve parliament, political analysts said. General elections must be held before July next year.

"I heartily welcome this," a beaming Kaifu said on national television. "But I will not comment on how this would affect the political scene."

Kaifu, who hails from a tiny faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), came to power Aug. 9 as a compromise premier because most of the party elders were sidelined as a result of the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal.

With the victory, Kaifu is expected to be smoothly reelected LDP president later this month. The post carries with it the office of prime minister by virtue of the LDP's majority in the Lower House.

Despite his weak party foothold, Kaifu has taken unexpected initiative in tax and political reforms. He fired the conservative head of the party's tax research council and submitted a plan for electoral reform that would lead to less demand for political funds.

"But it's yet far from an ideal,

strong position for Mr. Kaifu," said Osaka University professor Tadashi Iyasa.

"To solidify his grab on power, he must win general elections," said Iyasa, a specialist in LDP politics.

The by-election victory is also not enough to say that the electoral tide has turned completely for the ruling party, analysts said.

"The result this time may have come from the Japanese voters' sense of balance, more than fruits of a real comeback for the LDP or the negative impact of arguments among the opposition," Iyasa said.

"They thought they gave the Liberal Democrats enough beating last time."

The Liberal Democrats suffered their worst election defeat in the July 23 elections, mainly because of an unpopular sales tax, the Recruit scandal and government moves to open farm trade to imports.

For the first time since its formation in 1955, the LDP lost its majority in the Upper House, the less powerful of the two chambers. Sosuke Uno lost his job as premier after the defeat. He was also accused of paying money for sex with Geisha.

The Japan Socialist Party (JSP), riding on the tide of their landslide victory in the Upper House polls July 23, refused to field a candidate endorsed by three of the other opposition parties and went ahead with their own, revealing cracks in talks over an opposition coalition.

Mubarak, Shamir studying a meeting

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has again expressed interest in meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir but no decision had been made on such talks, according to a Shamir aide.

Shamir's spokesman Yossi Achmeir denied Israel radio reports that when Mubarak telephoned Shamir from New York Friday the two men had agreed to meet soon.

"You can't say from this telephone call there will be a meeting any time soon," he said, but added: "The very fact that he (Mubarak) called the prime minister is a positive step and proves he has nothing personal against Mr. Shamir."

"Mr. Mubarak reiterated his approach concerning the possibility of a meeting," he said that he's interested in such a meeting, but that it has to be well prepared."

Political sources said Shamir had been angered by Mubarak's prior refusal to deal with him in an apparent attempt to isolate him politically.

Mubarak has readily met Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Vice-Premier Shimon Peres of Labour, the junior party in Israel's ruling coalition.

The sources said that during meetings in New York this week both Ares, of Shamir's Likud party, and Peres advised Mubarak that isolating Shamir was a tactical error.

Diplomatic sources said it was likely that the Americans gave Mubarak the same message.

Five Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip are in Cairo, for talks, officials about scho-

larships to Egyptian universities, Palestinian sources said.

But the sources said the delegation, led by attorney Fayez Abu Rahma, a supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would have political talks as well.

Both Israeli and Palestinian sources have said that Mubarak, who is seeking to arrange Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo, could choose Abu Rahma, 60, as one of a PLO-approved Palestinian negotiating team.

The sources said the five Palestinians were to meet Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials as well as Palestinians living outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The delegation's other members are Suleiman Zureh Al Astal, mayor of Khan Yunis, Mohammad Al Jidi, director-general of education in Gaza, Mohammad Alwad, a high school principal, and Ahmad Hassan Ashwara, a trustee of the Islamic University.

Abu Rahma has periodically negotiated with Egypt over a promise made by former President Anwar Sadat that 1,200 Gaza residents would be allowed to study in Egyptian universities, Israeli sources said.

Palestinians said the number of places available in Egypt for Gaza students was insufficient, especially since Israel closed Gaza's Islamic University after the Palestinian uprising erupted in December 1987.

Peres told armed forces radio Saturday "the time has never been riper to start negotiations unless we want to live always by the sword."

Stands staked in Taif talks

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — Lebanese lawmakers clashed over Syria's military involvement in their country as they met Sunday in Taif under a new Arab League effort to end 14 years of civil war.

In Beirut, police said army units loyal to commander Michel Aoun and Syrian-backed militia fought a 15-minute battle around the strategic mountain army garrison of Souq Al Gharb.

No casualties were reported in the duel, which strained a week-old Arab League-brokered ceasefire between Aoun forces and Syrian troops and their allies.

Sixty-two members of parliament, 32 of them Christian and 30 Muslim, are in the mountain resort of Taif for the deliberations, which began Saturday and were expected to drag on for several days.

Eleven of the 99-seat chamber's surviving deputies did not show up for the meeting, called

by a three-member Arab committee as part of a new peace plan for Lebanon.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal conceded there was a stormy session Saturday night, but added: "We do not regard this as disturbing in any way. In fact it is a healthy sign that all views are aired and opinions expressed."

The sessions are being held behind closed doors at the plush conference palace in Taif, 120 kilometres east of Jeddah. Reporters are barred from approaching any of the participants.

Conference sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the Syria-Iraq feud, the Arab World's bitterest internal conflict, hobbled the meetings Sunday.

Eleven members set out their ideas in the first working session Saturday evening and others followed suit at a meeting which

opened at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT) on Sunday morning.

A major issue, in dispute is the pace of a Syrian troop withdrawal and how to link it with political reforms abolishing the Christian dominance built into the Lebanese system since the 1940s.

A majority of the Christian deputies, acting under the guidance of Aoun are expected to demand firmer guarantees that Syria's 33,000 troops will pull out quicker than the Arab plan proposes.

Aoun launched a crusade to drive the Syrians out last March and more than 820 people were killed in the artillery battles which followed.

Former Prime Minister Saeb Salam, a Sunni Muslim like all Lebanese prime ministers, told the conference that it was unrealistic and dangerous to concentrate on the Syrian presence. "Let us recognise frankly that a Syrian withdrawal today would

lead to many dangers... whatever some may think of Syria and however much they may complain of Syria's presence," he said.

"Among the certain dangers would be the creation of sectarian mini-states. I do not say this in defence of Syria but out of my concern for the interests of Lebanon. We, and especially our Maronite brothers, must take this into consideration," he added.

But Abdul Majid Al Rafi, a pro-Iraqi Baathist from the northern city of Tripoli, blamed Syrian intervention for Lebanon's problems and called for a quick withdrawal, members of parliament said.

Ali Khalil, a Shi'ite Muslim from the south and former finance minister, praised the Syrian role in Lebanon, however, and asked his colleagues to set a deadline for abolishing the sectarian system for dividing up political offices.

Jordanian women on the move to break traditional, political barriers

As Jordan is gearing up for its first general elections in 22 years, the Kingdom's women are bracing themselves to assert a prominent role in the decision-making process through influencing the outcome of the polls in favour of their battle against what they see as "numerous inequalities," Ghadeer Taber and Mariam Shakin report.

AMMAN — As Jordan nears its first general elections in 22 years, many women are refusing to be cast in the role of the apathetic voter and are making their voice heard throughout the Kingdom. With the same determination of 1957 which propelled a group of women to ask for the right to vote, women today are demanding political equality in what may be their first chance to play a role of any kind in the decision-making process of the Kingdom.

Jordan today is dramatically different from the one of 32 years ago when the then-governor of "progressive" Suleiman Nabulsi rejected the demand of the women and told them their place was at home. But, even today, obstacles to "real" equality remain impos-

ing in the still predominantly traditional Jordanian society despite the fact that women constitute 50 per cent of the Kingdom's population and are granted the right to vote.

Their argument is simple: They should have a say in the policies that pertain both to women's issues as well as national domains, be they economic, political or social, and there cannot be a denial this time, not only because women have made an impact on Jordan's life, whether in administrative or business fields.

One of the most heatedly debated topics in political circles in the run-up to the Nov. 8 elections to the Lower House of Parliament is the extent of the role women can play in the Kingdom's decision-making

process and whether the traditions of the society are pliable to the extent of creating an atmosphere conducive to achieving such a goal.

"The role of women in elections" was the topic of a lecture last week which highlighted the bridges Jordanian women must still cross to reach their destination. A panel spanning a wide spectrum of political thinking comprised four women, Laila Sharaf, Aishah Hijazi, Emily Nafaa and Asma Khadre, each favouring distinctively different approaches but at the same time voicing similar views. The net result: A captivated audience most timely reminded of the inevitability of female participation in the affairs of the country at a time when it is preparing for parliamentary life after a long absence.

All the speakers agreed that Jordanian women, by their sheer number, could influence the outcome of elections but it is simply not enough. "We are half the population, and we will not longer accept a symbolic role," Sharaf told the gather-

ing. "We must actively vie to represent ourselves in a more assertive manner," said Sharaf, one of Jordan's two women former ministers.

"All are equal"

Hijazi, a professor in education and a columnist who reflects moderate Islamic thinking, agreed but in a different vein. "There is no difference between men and women. In the eyes of God, they are equal and they should participate equally and influence events," said Hijazi, who wore a scarf, perhaps to emphasise her stature as a practising Muslim.

In Hijazi's view, women are not trying to compete with men, or be like them, but it is their democratic right to actively participate in elections. The columnist's words are very apt at a time when a debate is raging in the local Arabic press about the abilities and place of women in our society.

In more ways than one, last week's debate, with a mixed audience packing the halls of the Professional Associations

Complex, reflected the tug-of-war that women are facing in the Kingdom's traditional/modern social structure. Calls from conservative thinkers advocating a return to "better" times when everyone knew their role are countered by modern, liberal thinkers who are demanding that women abandon a passive role in favour of a more productive, assertive one.

"Today we are going backwards," Hijazi sounded an ominous note contrasting the almost non-existent political role of Jordanian women at a time when they have made great inroads into education and the workforce. "Women shouldn't be afraid of participation," she said. "Every experience is a teaching one." To drive her point home, especially to more traditional minds, she cited examples from the Arab and Islamic history of women who contributed to the development of the nation. She also highlighted examples of contemporary women who are literally sacrificing their lives for their country — the women

of the intifada and Lebanon.

"Full rights, full potential"

Emily Nafaa, one of the pioneers of the women's movement in Jordan who participated in the short-lived 1957 movement for women's voting rights, agreed with the main theme of the debate but argued that fundamental human rights, applicable equally to men and women, must be guaranteed before the full political potential of voters could come into play.

Her philosophy is prevalent among intellectuals concerned with development in the Third World who ask how can poor people afford to think of political or social development when they do not have enough to eat. Nafaa concentrated on the economic crisis the country is experiencing which she sees as a stumbling block to political progress, especially for women.

"We have come a long way since 1957 when the government refused to give us the right to vote," she said, "but we have not come nearly far

enough."

Now, the time is opportune for women to grab the opportunity at hand and actively participate in eliminating social and legislative "ills that have plagued us for so long... Women, through their unions and federations, must raise the consciousness of their compatriots to shun elections based on tribal and religious affiliations, which only serve to deprive the country of a sense of national unity and belonging."

Nafaa took exception with what she described as "unproportional representation" in the 81-seat Lower House and urged an end to seat allocations based on tribal and religious considerations.

Asma Khadre is an ardent advocate of the same line of thinking. "The Governorate of Amman, with a population of 1,203,000, is represented (in the Lower House) by 21 seats, and the Governorate of Karak, with a population of 124,220, is allocated nine seats," she argued. "It is not equal representation. It is unjust and

promotes religious divisions," the Christian lawyer said.

"Minorities such as Christians and Circassians are unproportionately over-represented in Parliament. And, of course, half the population of Jordan — women — do not have one representative in Parliament. It is the biggest misrepresentation of all."

Nafaa sees economic issues as closely linked to women's right to have a say in what shapes their future. "We have to take advantage of the election in light of this dangerous economic crisis under the headline 'basic human rights'," Nafaa, a member of the International Women's Democratic Union, exhorted the diverse audience, which ranged from officials to relatives of banned political party members. "The candidate whom we elect must concentrate on employment for every Jordanian, suitable housing and free health care and education," she said.

Basically, Nafaa is pursuing the welfare state ideology (Continued on page 4)

AUB to reopen Oct. 9 after 7-month closure

By Mariam Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The American University of Beirut (AUB), which was closed down in the early days of the latest spasm of violence which began in March, will reopen Oct. 9, the university president announced Sunday.

Dr. Frederic P. Herter, the non-resident president of the AUB, the oldest educational institution in the Middle East after Cairo University, said the board of trustees of the AUB met in Amman over the weekend to review the situation in Lebanon in the wake of the latest ceasefire which took hold last week.

Herter said the only AUB faculty which continued functioning throughout the last seven months was the medical school attached to the American University Hospital (AUH).

Herter expressed hope that recent Arab League efforts to end Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war would bear fruit, "promising a new era for peace in Lebanon."

According to Herter, the university will now try to complete the semester interrupted in March and will launch new courses in January. But, he said, the institution will need to incorporate extended hours to catch up.

One of the problems facing the AUB at this point in time, said Herter, was a deficit in budget. According to Dr. Ibrahim Salo, resident president of the AUB, the university's 1989 budget is \$35 million with a deficit of \$10 million.

Herter pointed out that despite the close-down of the university, its hospital continued functioning, and hence the expenditure.

He said the AUH treated almost 80 per cent of all casualties in West Beirut over the past seven months and, as in the case of war casualties, very little treatment charges could be collected.

In addition, he said, the American government reduced its annual contribution to \$3 million

from the regular \$6 million. He attributed the decision to what he described as scepticism in Washington over Lebanon's ability to hold itself together. "It is a questionable commodity," he said.

Herter, son of Christian Herter — one of the most pro-Arab American secretaries of state and who served under President Dwight Eisenhower — said it would probably be better if the university divorced itself from governmental assistance.

Herter said a 1988-1990 campaign launched by the AUB to raise \$35 million was partially successful and managed to collect \$23 million from Arab, European and American agencies, individuals and governments. He paid tribute to Saudi Arabia, which, he said, had always been very generous and contributed \$2 million to the AUB campaign.

According to Herter, the entire faculty members who were temporarily relieved of their duties in March will return to Beirut this fall along with an estimated 5,500 students. However, the student body is expected to be 90 per cent Lebanese, compared with 50 per cent before the Lebanese civil war erupted in 1974.

Herter said despite the uncertainty of the situation in Lebanon, the AUB board of trustees "emphatically rejected any thoughts of either moving AUB... or altering its nature of educational mission."

Asked whether he would return to Beirut, Herter said he would like to do so but pointed out that the American State Department had imposed ban on Americans travelling to Beirut.

The ban was imposed two years ago when four professors of Beirut University College were kidnapped to Beirut.

Ghassan Tweini, an AUB board member and prominent Lebanese diplomat, said the enrolment of Jordanian and Syrian students at the university was on the rise. He said 75 Jordanians had already enrolled this year in addition to students from the Arab Gulf states and some African countries, but no Americans or Europeans.

According to Herter, the "re-internationalisation" of the university was necessary to enrich its multi-cultural character "which has been affected by its rather insular atmosphere in the past few years."

Salo, a Jordanian, said the cost of repairing the damages caused to the campus buildings and other facilities in the last seven months might not take long, but might be costly. He said 85 shells fell on the campus during this period but caused no casualties.

Over 14,000 students applied last spring to enrol at the AUB. About 6,000 of them wanted to join the arts stream while the seats available were only 500; in the school of engineering, 2,500 applied for the available 250 places.

Although almost 70 per cent of all AUB students receive some form of scholarship, the standard of high selection and education has not declined, Salo said.

He also pointed out that the fee levied by the AUB — between \$1,000 to \$2,000 annually — was very competitive for a university that provides a very high level of education.

The AUB was established in 1866. It alumni now boast of scores of top-level leaders, ministers and senior officials as well as businessmen and professionals in the Arab World and elsewhere. The Amman chapter of the AUB Alumni Club has perhaps the biggest membership outside Lebanon.

Cyprus stifles its buffer zone smugglers' haven

By Katherine McElroy
Reuters

NICOSIA — The village of Pyla, once a smugglers' haven straddling the sectarian divide on the Mediterranean holiday island of Cyprus, is dying under a police crackdown.

The police say the whisky sold in Pyla is a poor imitation of the

real thing and the designer clothes are fake — tourists, they add, must be protected.

The village, nestled in U.N. ceasefire lines between the Greek-Cypriot south and the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot north is one of the few settlements on the divided island where the communities live and work together.

Turkish-Cypriot villagers

would bring their "designer" sports wear and "whisky" from the north to sell in thriving shops to both Greek Cypriots and tourists from the south.

Because the south does not recognise the self-declared Turkish-Cypriot state, it bans the goods because they are not taxed.

Despite the problems, Pyla flourished. Restaurants and clothes shops sprang up to serve bargain-hunters at the buffer zone village but now they are slowly but surely being forced out of business.

Pyla's success was its undoing — the Cyprus government decided enough — the village's more shady activities had become an embarrassment.

Cyprus Interior Minister Christodoulos Vocolamin said tests showed 70 per cent of the whisky sold in Pyla was fake.

"We were not as strict as we should have been... it's a bit of a scandal if it's left like that," he said.

Police roadblocks in the south have discouraged Greek Cypriot visitors and tourists from entering the village under the watchful eye of the United Nations peacekeepers who have overseen Pyla since Cyprus was divided in 1974.

Tourists say the police confiscate any goods bought in Pyla. "They've closed us down," said Greek-Cypriot Maria Petrou, whose husband runs a tavern on the road leading into the village.

An Israeli officer argues with an elderly Palestinian as a worker for the Israeli tax authority removes a handful of mason's trowels from the

hardware shop belonging to Bassam Tawil, as tax raids continue in West Bank.

W. Bank mayors denounce tax raids

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Three Palestinian mayors denounced Israel Saturday for seizing property and goods from people in the occupied West Bank town of Beit Sahour in a series of tax raids over the past 10 days.

The Israeli authorities took action after Palestinians in Beit Sahour, a centre of civil disobedience during the 21-month-old Palestinian uprising, obeyed calls from activists not to pay taxes to Israel.

Ozal, master of surprise, keeps Turkey guessing

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, a master of surprise, is keeping Turkey guessing on whether he will seek the less powerful job of president after six years as the country's dominant politician.

Most people expect him to become president in an election by legislators this month — but Ozal, facing stiff political opposition and unpopularity with the public over the economy, is keeping his plans to himself.

"My chances of running are 50-50," Ozal, who must declare his candidacy by Oct. 19, told his conservative Motherland Party last week.

Opposition parties have threatened to boycott the vote if Ozal stands and refuse to recognise him if he wins, saying an Ozal victory would be unpopular with the public.

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, Farah Al Araj of Beit Jalla and Haana Al Atarah of Beit Sahour said in a statement issued jointly with the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce that the raids were illegal.

Calling on the international community to force Israel to end the raids, they said movable goods including furniture and machines had been confiscated, people arrested and the aged, women and children terrorised.

A spokesman for Israel's occupation authority declined last week to comment on the value of the goods confiscated.

Residents of Beit Sahour near Bethlehem have likened their tax boycott to the refusal of American colonists to pay taxes to the British government in the 18th century.

"Taxation without representation violates fundamental principles of self-determination and civil rights," they said in a statement last week.

Cargo jet flying urgent Lebanon medical supplies

NICOSIA (AP) — A Boeing 707 cargo jet loaded with \$1 million worth of emergency medical supplies for war-ravaged Lebanon was on its way from New York to Cyprus Saturday.

Eric Weintz, a spokesman for the non-profit humanitarian organisation, Americanas, said in Larnaca, Cyprus, the plane was due to arrive Sunday morning.

"We've committed ourselves to providing \$10 million in medical supplies to Lebanon this year," said Lisa Champagne, an Americanas spokeswoman in the United States.

The latest shipment comprises antibiotics, heart medicine, cough medicines for children, burn creams, surgical supplies, bandages, blankets, stretchers, tents and plastic sheeting.

Champagne told the Associated Press in a telephone call to Americanas' office in New Canaan, Connecticut, that the chartered jet was to offload its \$41,000-kilo cargo at Larnaca airport on the southeast Cyprus coast.

A portion of the emergency medical supplies was later to be loaded onto a plane of Lebanon's state-run Middle East Airlines (MEA), marking the first time the group has flown supplies into Beirut.

Beirut international airport was closed during six months of intense artillery battles between Michel Aoun's fighters against the Syrian army and its militia allies. The airport, in south Beirut, was recently reopened after an Arab League-brokered truce took hold.

The rest of the shipment will be loaded onto freighters for transport to the port of Jounieh in the Christian enclave, said Weintz.

Eight Americanas emergency medical shipments worth a total of \$6 million already have reached both sides this year aboard cargo ships running the gamut of shelling and warships to reach Lebanon.

A ninth was intercepted by a Syrian gunboat a week before the ceasefire, Weintz said.

He said the ship, destined for Jounieh, was diverted to the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli, where it was being processed by local customs officers.

"We hope to get the shipment out of customs within the next few days," Weintz said.

Syria imposed a maritime blockade on the Christian enclave in March, after Aoun ordered a blockade of harbours run by militias in an effort to reassert government control over the ports.

Champagne said there were no plans for any Americans to accompany the medical supplies aboard the MEA plane because of fears for their safety once they arrived at Beirut airport.

"Quite a lot of our staffers would like to go," she said. "But we can't take that responsibility."

Several of the 16 Western hostages held in Lebanon were kidnapped along or near the airport highway into Beirut.

Americanas' emergency supplies are distributed to hospitals on both sides of Beirut's dividing green line by volunteers inside Lebanon, Weintz said.

Algerian national assembly adopts new programme

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian National Assembly has overwhelmingly adopted the programme of a new government named to speed up political and economic liberalisation.

The APS news agency reported deputies backed the programme of incoming Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche by 281 votes to three with two abstentions.

Hamrouche has pledged to create a market-based economy within a fully democratic multi-party state.

He was named Sept. 9 after President Chadli Benjedid fired previous Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah for failing to make progress on reforms promised after anti-austerity riots convulsed the country in October 1988.

A new constitution adopted in February signalled the official end of years of dogmatic one-party socialist rule, but the re-

form drive ran into opposition within the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

On Friday, Benjedid told the FLN there was no going back on reform and he urged the party to bring itself into line with the changes in Algerian society.

"We arrived at the conviction it was necessary to allow all the citizens of this nation to express their opinion in all liberty. I reaffirm today, once again, our commitment," he told a meeting of the party's central committee.

The central committee was meeting to prepare for a key FLN congress in November at which the party's manifesto in the first multi-party elections since independence from France in 1964 will be adopted.

Benjedid told delegates he agreed with remarks by Hamrouche that it would be necessary to hold talks "with everybody and every political group."

Mubarak's offer provides a dramatic test of will

By Abba Eban

LOS ANGELES — President Hosni Mubarak's offer to bring Israelis and Palestinians together for peace talks on Egyptian soil is rational, sober and respectful of Israeli sensitivities.

If such initiatives are blocked by the rejectionism that frustrated earlier peace openings in the 1980s, there will be little to expect beyond the defeat of realism and escalating violence in a region packed with deadly weaponry.

All four parties — the Israelis, the Egyptians, the Palestinians and the United States — face a dramatic moral and human test. It is in their power to ensure that the opening created by Mr. Mubarak is not wasted. The question of whether a Palestinian delegation shall or shall not include a few Palestinians who are now

outside the occupied territories is so picaresque and pettifogging that it obstructs a dialogue, the resultant tears and blood will lie heavy on whichever party obstructs in prospect.

The timeliness of Mr. Mubarak's initiative arises from the deadline in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal to hold elections leading to the establishment of limited autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This was a credible procedural idea, but it was subject to different interpretations and required clarification.

In the absence of formal Israeli-Palestinian contacts, the United States sought Arab and European acceptance of this proposal. The initiative in its original form would exclude Jerusalem residents and those closely associated with the PLO from any part of the election process.

But two senior ministers, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin,

advocate flexible attitudes on such contentious issues. Even the PLO, with which the United States wisely maintains its contacts, has modified its traditional reluctance to the point of keeping the door conditionally open to the election idea.

Can all this be made to add up to an agreement or, at least, a dialogue? It is not unusual for a party to a dispute to inaugurate a discussion, as Mr. Shamir has done, with its own full demands. What was abnormal was the inability or refusal of the authors of the initiative to explain what kinds of elections they had in mind. The United States and Egypt have asked questions that might hold the key to an agreement.

May Palestinians in East Jerusalem vote in polls outside Jerusalem for representatives of their movement? Will there be outside observers? Will Israeli forces withdraw from intimidating pro-

ximity to the polls? Will the election be held specifically as a prelude to open-ended negotiation of future status?

The United States has not been able to get replies, because in Israel's coalition government there are at least two answers to every question. The result is that the election initiative has been presented as a barefaced demand, impervious to analysis, clarification or amendment.

Some U.S. officials contributed to this fundamentalism with the slogan that "this is the only game in town." Sporting metaphor has seldom had a less felicitous use than in this uncharacteristic warning against innovation and diversity. Fortunately, the United States has emerged from this straitjacket to the extent of commending the Mubarak initiative.

Nevertheless, the peace process was in a parlous condition until Mr. Mubarak's invitation to the Defence Minister Rabin. Mr.

Rabin's imaginative acceptance gave peace a new chance. Both have decided it is better to risk and fail than to recoil from risk through fear of failure.

The question is whether this attitude is accepted by the United States. Despite Washington's routine insistence on "direct negotiation," every contractual success in Israeli-Arab negotiation for 40 years has depended on a third party's good offices.

What is required from Washington is not intervention or pressure but a willingness to illuminate avenues of compromise. American passivity would be equivalent to consequence to assertive support of the explosive status quo. It would have been imaginative for the United States to have convened the Israeli-Palestinian meeting that Mr. Mubarak now suggests. As it is, Mr. Mubarak's initiative deserves the credit and support — The New York Times.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:00 Flying Doctors
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:30 Local series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:10 Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:30 Les Pique Assiettes
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Golden Girls
21:10 The Justice Game
22:00 News in English
22:20 New drama-series

PRAYER TIMES

05:46 Fajr
06:25 (Sunrise) Duha
12:25 Dhuhur
15:48 'Asr
18:25 Maghrib
19:42 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624550
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teravanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A gradual drop in temperature is expected and some clouds will appear at different altitudes. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman Min./Max. temp.
Aqaba 13 / 27
Agaba 20 / 33
Deserta 14 / 29
Jordan Valley 18 / 32

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362
Dr. Mohammad Al 'Ajem 894184
Dr. Mohammad 'Azam 664266
Dr. Youssef Al Hourani 714622
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Ateena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Central Amman pharmacy 636730
Yasouf pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Abdul Karim Al 'Abwa (—)
Al Shanaa pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Mufeed Damra (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985477

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605300
Price Complaints 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 813615

Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642602
Maha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 777101/3
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 667271/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mulajmei 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987372
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)273535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)5220-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:00 Damascus (RJ)
18:00 Sana'a (RJ)
18:00 Baghdad (RJ)
18:00 Moscow (RJ)
18:00 Damascus (RJ)
18:00 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
18:00 Jeddah (RJ)
18:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
18:00 Larnaca (RJ)
18:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
18:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 Baghdad (RJ)
18:00 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ)
18:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:00 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Dubai (EK)
10:10 Sana'a (LJ)
13:00 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
15:20 Cairo (MS)
15:25 Bahrain (GF)
16:20 Kuwait (KU)
15:00 Baghdad (IA)
18:25 Paris (AF)
08:15 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
11:40 Baghdad (RJ)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
12:15 Vienna, Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:00 Baghdad (RJ)
15:30 Moscow (RJ)
16:30 Damascus (RJ)
18:00 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
18:00 Jeddah (RJ)
18:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
18:00 Larnaca (RJ)
18:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
18:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 Baghdad (RJ)
18:00 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ)
18:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:00 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 London (BA)
10:30 Dubai (EK)
11:10 Frankfurt (LH)
14:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:20 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple (golden) 540 / 500
Apple (red) 580 / 530
Banana 400 / 350
Bassana (Makassar) 350 / 300
Beans 170 / 140
Cabbage 420 / 380
Cauliflower 250 / 140
Corn 160 / 140
Couscous (large) 250 / 200
Couscous (small) 350 / 300
Dates 700 / 600
Eggplant 200 / 160
Fig 400 / 350
Garlic 900 / 800
Grapesfruit 250 / 200
Grapes 350 / 300
Grapes (red) 350 / 300
Guava 420 / 380
Lemon 200 / 160
Mallow 130 / 100
Marrow (large) 180 / 150
Marrow (small) 340 / 280
Mozza 600 / 550
Onion (dry) 250 / 200
Pepper (hot) 160 / 120
Pepper (sweet) 170 / 140
Potatoes 350 / 280
Potato 300 / 250
Spinach 270 / 230
Sweet Melon 330 / 280
Tomatoes 160 / 120
Water Melon 180 / 150

King, Queen to open seminar on safeguarding the future

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Monday open a regional conference on safeguarding the future which is being held by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

An NHF press release on the eve of the occasion said that the conference is regarded as part of the UNFPA's efforts to promote social and environmental progress through improving the balance between population growth and distribution and the country's resources.

Ministers of health, planning and social development as well as leaders of women's federation and unions in all Arab League countries have been invited to take part in the three-day conference.

Also taking part in the conference will be 25 distinguished journalists from the various mass communication media, as well as 10 experts in population issues who will act as source persons, or facilitators, for the

discussion sessions.

There will also be representatives of some United Nations specialised agencies, such as the Environment Programme (UNEP), the Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The objectives of the conference are:

— To explain the inter-relationship between the various socio-economic factors affecting the individual and social welfare with a view to promoting an integrated approach for sustained development.

— To demonstrate that the human being is the ultimate goal of development, and that all efforts should be aimed at contributing to the well-being of individuals and society.

— To emphasise that development cannot be complete or sustained unless all sections of the population are involved. In this respect, the potential

contribution of women is considered and needs to be rationally utilised.

— To encourage and promote public understanding of, and support for specific efforts needed for this integrated mode of development.

Three major documents will be presented at the conference:

— In the first paper, Dr. Riad Tahbarah, chief of the Social Development, Population and Human Settlements Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, will review the population and development situation in the Arab World, look at some of its major issues and propose some actions that decision-makers may take to impart greater rationality to the development of the Arab region.

— In her paper, writer and journalist Nadia Hijab will argue that sustainable development is not possible until and unless women are seen for what they are: producers of much of the nation's wealth. In discussing this issue, Hijab will



HM King Hussein



HM Queen Noor

first look at the basic indicators of development, such as health and education, and then examine women's productivity, and their involvement in economic activities.

— The third paper, entitled Population, Development and Environment in the Arab Region, will be presented by Dr. Mohammad Kassas, professor at Cairo University, who will discuss such issues as demography, urbanisation and the urban sprawl, population redistribution, migration and trans-boundary population movement.

Each paper will be presented by its author at a plenary session and followed by a com-

ment by a leading expert. The plenary will then break into discussion groups which will later report to the plenary on their discussions.

On the third day of the conference, roundtable sessions will review the recommendations and propose programmes that will help in formulating a plan for the future.

Results of this conference will be discussed at an international conference which UNFPA is holding in Amsterdam under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, from Nov. 6 to 9 under the title: "Population and the 21st Century: Safeguarding the Future."

Qnayyah will finally get electricity, water

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

QNAYYAH — Qnayyah is a small village situated 20 kilometres north west of Zarqa with an approximate population of 1,200, but despite its proximity to such an industrial city as Zarqa, it has no electricity, no water, no adequate health care and no telephone or postal services.

Unlike other distant villages that are not connected with high voltage lines since they are too far from them, Qnayyah lacks electricity because of "administrative squabbles," according to residents.

The village, only one kilometre away from the high voltage lines of the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO), cannot benefit from the grid since it is considered within the borders of the Zarqa Governorate.

"Qnayyah cannot be connected to the high voltage lines because it is outside the IDECO's concession area," the mayor of the Um Sleih and Greshah Municipality, Faris Al Zayoud, said on the fringes of a visit Her Majesty Queen Noor to the village Sunday.

According to official sources, connecting Qnayyah to Zarqa's electricity costs around JD 75,000 while it would cost only JD 21,000 for it to be connected with the IDECO line.

Electricity is only one of many

"commodities" that Qnayyah lacks. Though surrounded by many water springs and other natural water resources, the village does not yet have a water network.

Children of school age in neighbouring villages can have as much water as they want during the rainy days of winter, as some of them have to negotiate about 22 kilometres every day to and from the only school available to Qnayyah residents — in Qnayyah village itself.

But their ordeal stops at the end of the third preparatory grade; not because the secondary grade students have a bus of their own, but because there is no secondary school in Qnayyah.

"The secondary school is in another distant village. Most of the students quit school after the third preparatory," Zayoud told the Jordan Times.

The list of demands is endless and the people were more than thrilled when they knew that Queen Noor was to pay their

modest village a royal visit, raising hopes that it will result in some improvement in their living conditions.

They were not disappointed. After the Queen inspected the small village Sunday, she instructed that it be supplied with electricity.

"The Cities and Villages Development Bank and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment are to offer the village loans to extend electricity lines," said the head of the village council, Ali Rashid.

A water network is to be constructed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in cooperation with the Department of Land and Survey.

A bus is also to be allocated to take children to their schools, which will also be fenced. A post office was immediately established.

According to minister of health Zuhair Malhas, who accompanied the Queen on her visit, a doctor is to make more frequent visits in the village on a regular basis, rather than only two hours every other day.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) is to develop small projects in the area to help the families increase their income, and a social development centre will be established.

Accompanying the Queen on her visit were Minister of Agriculture Bassam Al Saket and NHF Director General Ina'm Al Mufti.

Government declares holiday on Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thursday, Oct. 12, 1989, will be observed as a public holiday in Jordan to celebrate the Prophet Mohammad's birthday anniversary, according to an official communique by the Prime Ministry Sunday.

On the occasion, all government departments and public institutions will remain closed, and various public and private organisations will make arrangements for religious ceremonies to mark the occasion, the communique said.

Earlier, a national committee organising celebrations for the anniversary announced that major ceremonies will be held on Oct. 11, the eve of the birthday anniversary.

The committee, which is chaired by Minister of Awqaf and

Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, said that the main event will be held at Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture, the Hussein Mosque, downtown Amman, and the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque at Abdali district.

A special celebration on the coming anniversary will be staged in Cairo at the invitation of the Egyptian government and with the participation of Awqaf ministers from the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states.

On Oct. 12, there will be Islamic book exhibitions in various provinces and voluntary societies will distribute financial and in-kind gifts to needy families. In addition, religious competitions will be organised, with the major event taking place at the University of Jordan.



Sharif Zeid receives De La Salle President

AMMAN — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker had a meeting in his office Sunday with the president of the De La Salle Order (The Freres) Johnston John Calvin who is currently on a tour of Jordan and a number of countries in the Middle East region. They reviewed the educational efforts of the order's colleges around the world. Sharif

Zeid paid tribute to De La Salle's educational contributions around the world in general and in Jordan in particular. For his part Calvin voiced appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's support for education and his genuine and sincere efforts to establish peace in the Middle East region. (Petra photo)

Malaria not endemic in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Over 200 cases of malaria are reported in Jordan every year, but the disease is not endemic in the Kingdom and disease carriers are all non-Jordanians, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas said in an interview with the Sawt Al Shaah Arabic daily.

According to the minister, Jordan is also free of bilharzia, a disease which affects some Arab countries, especially Egypt.

The malaria cases, according to the minister, are treated and cured by health authorities in the Kingdom free of charge to make the country one of the very few malaria-free nations in the Middle East region, Malhas said.

As a result of the continued efforts by health teams and the immunisation campaigns, the country remains free of numerous contagious diseases, the minister added.

He said that Jordan can boast of being one of the leading nations in eliminating diseases which used to cause high rates of mortality among children.

Nearly 98 per cent of Jordanian children, he explained, are immunised against whooping cough, tetanus and polio and efforts continue to deal with all forms of diarrhoea.

The Health Ministry, which this year celebrates its 30th anniversary, "has reason to be proud of its achievements in controlling the spread of diseases, in carrying out primary health care programmes in Jordan and in conducting preventive medicine in rural, badia and urban regions of the Kingdom," Malhas said.

Malhas said that Jordan imports drugs from 38 countries to provide nearly 70 per cent of the local needs.

Jordan has five major pharmaceutical plants which produce high-quality medicine marketed in the country and abroad, the minister said.

Malhas noted that the price of certain imported types of medicines rose sharply over the past 17 months due largely to the declining value of the dinar.

He regretted that Jordanians have to pay 20 to 40 per cent increases in the price of medicine as a result of the decline in the value of the national currency, but noted that some drugstores and importers of foreign medicine are not willing to cut down on their profits.

According to Malhas, certain drug stores have been making profits at the rate of 60 per cent.

Referring to the main services of the Health Ministry, Malhas said that through the primary health care programme, the ministry was striving to spread

awareness among members of the public about means of protecting themselves against all types of diseases.

"While the National Medical Institution (NMI) is taking care of hospitals and their functions, the ministry is dedicating its time and efforts to provide the public with information on fending off the danger of diseases and on means of providing children with nutritious food, and living in healthy environment," Malhas pointed out.

In the past 30 years of its existence, the Ministry of Health succeeded in reducing to one per cent, down from seven per cent,

the rate of deaths from contagious diseases but, he said, the type of diseases changed during this period. For example the mortality rate due to cancer is now seven per cent in Jordan up from one per cent in 1950, the minister noted.

He said that high blood pressure, heart diseases, diabetes, mental illness and other related diseases are now spreading, but on the whole, life expectancy in Jordan now stands at 67 up from 41 in 1950 "thanks to the public health awareness campaigns launched over the past two decades."

Wazani opens Jordanian Judicial Training Institute

AMMAN (Petra) — Justice Minister Rateb Al Wazani Sunday depulped for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in opening the Jordanian Judicial Training Institute and delivered a speech, outlining its objectives and programmes.

The minister said that the institute has been set up upon directives of Prince Hassan and with the purpose of meeting the training requirements of Jordanian judges.

"The institute will do all it can

to raise the standard of the judges and to improve their performance and help them deal with new developments in Jordanian political, economic and social life," the minister noted in his speech at the opening session.

Wazani said there is need to strengthen the inspection system at the Ministry of Justice, by providing it with highly qualified judges, and there is need to present the judicial system in Jordan in its best and most appropriate form.

AUDIT MANAGER REQUIRED

An international firm of accountants requires an Audit Manager for Saudi Arabia, who should hold an accounting degree from a recognised university, be fluent in both the Arabic and English languages and have at least five years auditing experience.

Professional qualifications would be an advantage. Total monthly emoluments in the region of JD 2,000.

Interested applicants should write to:

P.O. Box 2672, Riyadh 11461, Saudi Arabia

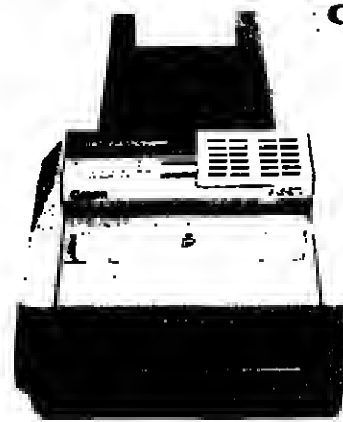
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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An Indian photographic exhibition — "Jawaharlal Nehru, His Life and Times" — at the Students Activities Complex, University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition of watercolours on Jordan by Salam Kanaan at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of Islamic scripts at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Nature and Man" by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition marking the 1st centennial of the Eiffel Tower displaying photographs, drawings and pictures demonstrating the tower in all its aspects at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of Romanian folklore and traditional crafts featuring life in Romania at the Jerusalem Hotel.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture, in French, on the French relief agency, Medecins Sans Frontieres, by Christophe Dupont at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A Yugoslav film entitled "Petra's Wreath" (Arabic subtitled), shown as part of the Yugoslav Film Week, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

INVITATION

Die German Speaking Ladies in Amman, möchten bekanntgeben, daß ihr Kaffeemorgen am Montag, den 2 Oct. 89 von 9.30 - 12.00 in Amra Hotel stattfindet. Auch alle Neuankömmlinge sind herzlich willkommen.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Will Shamir come to his senses?

ISRAELI Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's recent pronouncement that Israel must negotiate with the Palestinians if it wants to achieve peace is a profound step in the right direction. For many years, the Israeli establishment sought to bypass the Palestinian factor in a vain effort to sue for peace in the Middle East without their involvement. Until most recently Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc were still pursuing the elusive peace process in the Middle East blind-folded by pretending that the Palestinian factor was simply not there to reckon with. Then came Jordan's diplomatic masterstroke in 1988 with its historic and nationalistic decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. From that point on, slowly but surely, the thought began to soak in the national Israeli psyche that the principal interlocutor in the Palestinian dimension of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestinian party through its representative the PLO. Accordingly that momentous Jordanian decision must be credited with the transformation of Israeli perspective towards the Palestinian side, including the most recent endorsement of the pivotal Palestinian role by Rabin.

What remains to be done is to convince Shamir and his stubborn Likud partners to remove the blinds off their eyes and accept the new realities that there is no other option in dealing with the Palestinian question except to talk with the Palestinians themselves through their machinery, the PLO. The fact that Rabin is one of the most popular Israeli political leaders and that 52 per cent of Israelis, according to a recent poll, are supportive of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's peace ideas, it would seem probable now that the trend of Israeli thinking in favour of talking with the Palestinians would pick up momentum. And with Washington fully on the side of such a trend as evidenced by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's, recent remarks, there is no way that Shamir and his supporters can stand in the way of the burgeoning tide in favour of letting the Palestinians speak for themselves. It might take some more time to win Shamir to the side of common sense but there is no way he can withstand for long the growing impetus supporting the resolution of the Palestinian case through the Palestinians. In this vein Shamir cannot lose sight of Baker's recent warning to Tel Aviv which cautioned Israel to advance the ongoing peace efforts or risk facing other options that will surely be submitted should these peace efforts come to naught. There is no doubt that Mr. Baker was referring to the Egyptian thoughts on bringing the Israelis and Palestinians to the negotiating table or else push forward once again the international peace conference idea. Mr. Baker has summed it all when he stated last Friday that the "name of the game right now is to — for the first time — get Israelis and Palestinians talking to each other." The sooner Shamir yields to this common sense, the better it would be for all.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Arabic dailies on Sunday discussed Lebanon in the light of the ongoing meetings in Ta'if by the Lebanese deputies called to thrash out differences among the warring parties and to pave the way for a national reconciliation.

Al Ra'i said that the deputies have now taken the first step towards peace by holding their meeting in Saudi Arabia under Arab League umbrella and with support from Arab leaders. The meeting is the first fruit of the prolonged and tedious efforts on the part of the Arab League and its tripartite committee and is seen as the first ray of hope for millions of Lebanese and the Arab masses at large. The paper noted. It said that King Fahd's address to the Lebanese parliamentarians urging them to do all they can to overcome the present difficulties and attain the aspired goals served as a new impetus for the parley. The King's address to the meeting warned of the conspiracy against Lebanon and appealed to the deputies to save their country from further tragedies and disintegration, the paper added. It said that the Ta'if meeting can set the stage for an all-out reconciliation and a lasting peace.

Sawt Al Shaab daily for its part said that the 63 Lebanese deputies meeting in Ta'if are taking a constitutional, step not only in representing the Lebanese people but also in taking the very first and essential step that could lead to a lasting peace. What the deputies are concerned with at present is to see their country united, free from foreign domination and capable to stand up to challenges, the paper said. What the Arabs want from the deputies, it added, is to see an all-out consensus on ending all differences among the factions and warring groups and a clear way to peace. The question now is saving Lebanon from further destruction, and whether the meeting was held inside Lebanese territory or abroad, the aim and the objective remains the same, said the paper. What is expected from the deputies in Ta'if, the paper continued, is something wanted by all the Lebanese people and demanded by the Arab masses — that is total peace and security. We appeal to all Lebanese deputies and citizens, said the paper, to place their country's national interests above all other considerations and to sincerely work for peace.

Al Dstour daily commented on a meeting by the higher public safety committee under the chairmanship of the prime minister and discussed the task which the committee has been charged to undertake to ensure better environment for the Jordanian people. The paper said that the committee's services are now needed more than any time in the past in the light of the latest developments and the revelations about contaminated food supplies and the gas leakage that poisoned the lives of many citizens. The paper echoed the prime minister's call on the committee members to remove all elements that had been endangering public safety. The paper called for concerted efforts on the part of all departments and the public to put an end to dangers threatening the people's lives and to ensure a pure environment in the country.

Weekly Political Pulse

Children of 'divorce' need not suffer

By Waleed Sadi

THE POLITICAL implications of the 1988 Jordanian decision to sever legal and diplomatic relations with the West Bank are figuring high on the agenda of voters and candidates this autumn. To be sure, that decision is viewed as some sort of a "divorce", albeit a well-motivated one and in response to a plea for separation nisi from one of the "spouses." But as in all divorces, the "offspring" of the state of marriage that existed between the two parties normally end up paying the biggest price. The two "spouses" get accustomed to their new situations and their newly discovered roles but the "children" somehow never overcome the shock that usually ensues from the dissolution of "matrimony," especially the kind that lasted for a long time.

Now who are the "children" of the Jordanian-Palestinian marriage that are caught up in the middle of the break-up of a family relationship? Politics aside, the two peoples made great strides to melt into one people even though there were pockets on both sides who were never convinced of this union. The negative forces were to be expected as they represented the mother-in-law factor in the marriage. In this vein one does not think only in terms of the many instances of "inter-marriages" that occurred between the two sides and the thousands and thousands of offspring that were the consequences of that union, but also of the glorious friendships and splendid personal relations that developed between them on such a mass scale that cannot be had

except between the members of the greater Ashira, who have shared the same loaf of bread for decades. One must also speak of material relations, in the form of commerce and trade, that emerged between the two families in the course of two decades in recent times and well over many generations over more ancient eras.

Thus the relationships and bonds that were created, whether by blood or personal associations as a result of the union between the two peoples, constitute a valuable reservoir of goodwill that needs to be tapped and put into positive use in furtherance of the mutual benefits for both sides. The exploration and exploitation of the fruits of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is all the more urgent and necessary in view of the observation that the "divorce" between them has brought about some ill-feelings, suspicions and mistrust that have surfaced more vividly during this pre-election period. It is incumbent, now more than ever, on the positive developments that ensued from the union between the two peoples to make themselves more felt and appreciated in order to stem the negative consequences of the dissolution of that union. The two parties owe this at least to their "children" if not to themselves. After all, these "children" could always offer the bridge between the two sides with a view to promoting futuristic accommodation and reconciliation.

What propels one to think in these terms is the growing call on Jordanians of Palestinian origin to refrain from seeking too many seats in the new parliament lest it be interpreted once again as a Jordanian-Palestinian legislature and thus reintroduce the so-called Jordanian option to the Middle East peace process. The supporters of such a plea base their argument on the fact of the "divorce" that was declared between the East and West Banks of the Kingdom which they maintain, and correctly so, was first and foremost motivated by the firm verdict to eliminate once and for all the Jordanian option and to elevate the role of the PLO to the forefront of the struggle to resolve the Palestinian dimension of the broad Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the heated debates that developed over such positions during these pre-election days, other arguments ensued touching upon contemporary construction of citizenship rights and duties and how to reconcile what appears to be contradictory aspirations and objectives. That is why the country and its people need to draft the "offspring" of the marriage between the two hanks to play their pivotal role to heal the wounds that were created and are still being created. The Jordanian electorate are already too divided on religious and ethnic basis de jure and de facto. It would be most unfortunate and dangerous if Jordanians are further factionalised on other grounds as well. We must all be wary of the Lebanon syndrome before it creeps into our midst.

West German submarines for Israel?

TWO WEST German shipyards at the centre of a scandal over the supply of submarine technology to South Africa are in line for a \$567 million contract, financed by the United States, to build submarines for Israel, despite an official German ban on the supply of war materials to areas of tension.

The two 1,550 tonne Dolphin-class, diesel-powered submarines will be built by a consortium of Howaldtswerke-Deutsche-Werft (HDW) of Kiel and Thyssen Nordseewerke of Emden. The first will be delivered in about five years, and the second within six years. "The exact division of work between the two companies has yet to be finalised," said a Thyssen spokesman.

The vessels will be financed by the U.S. government, under its military aid programme to the Israelis. The regulations governing U.S. foreign aid, however, stipulate that equipment must originate with American companies. But the Americans long ago abandoned conventional, as opposed to nuclear, submarine design, and no U.S. shipyard was in a position to tender for the Israeli contract.

To allow Israel to benefit from U.S. financing, the Israeli submarine order will officially be held by the Pascagoula, Mississippi-based Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of the U.S. conglomerate Litton Industries. This is despite the fact that Ingalls, although a major naval shipyard, has never built a submarine of any type.

Ingalls, which is already working on an Israeli order to supply three Sa'ar 5 type missile boats, will sub-contract the work to the German consortium. This arrangement, while enabling the U.S. to finance the vessels, also means that the German companies, on paper at least, will be supplying the vessels to the United States, rather than Israel, and will therefore avoid violating German export laws.

"The contract has been close to finalisation for some months," said the Thyssen spokesman, although he added: "It is not yet certain that it will come to fruition." Last month, however, the Israeli navy commander, Micha Ram, indicated that Tel Aviv had made a firm decision to place the

order. The Israeli submarines form part of a \$1.2 billion Israeli naval procurement package agreed last year, and which also included the Sa'ar 5 missile boats under construction by Ingalls. The West German submarine consortium had been in competition with Argentina, which had offered Israel two of its TR 1700 type submarines. The Latin state has two TR 1700s built by Thyssen, and four others are under construction in Buenos Aires. In spring, however, Israel rejected the Argentine bid.

In West Germany, HDW and Thyssen Nordseewerke are presently at the centre of a scandal involving their alleged involvement in a South African sub-

marine construction programme. In 1984, apparently with the approval of the Bonn government, HDW sold submarine blueprints to South Africa, in possible violation of the United Nations arms embargo on the apartheid state. The government has claimed that the plans, originally drawn up for India, were insufficient to enable the South Africans to start a building programme. Now, however, German submarine engineers have claimed that the first submarine is under construction in South Africa, with the active assistance of HDW.

The Cologne television programme Monitor says that it has an affidavit alleging Thyssen Nord-

seewerke was also involved, and press reports have implicated a third company, Ingenieur-Kontors Lubbeck. The London Guardian has described a letter from a South African official to the latter firm suggesting a strategy for keeping the deal secret. On the one hand, said the letter, certain Bonn government officials should be kept informed, while on the other, "by a process of subtle release of disinformation the impression must be created that the build phase of this programme has been indefinitely postponed."

Despite the new claims to the contrary, Pretoria continues to claim that it had planned to use HDW's documents to build submarines, but that the project has been postponed — CAABU.

Mujahedeen's failure is frustration for Pakistan

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — These are frustrating times for the Pakistani government's Afghan policy-makers.

As the fighting season slips away into winter, prospects are fading that Mujahedeen guerrillas Pakistan has backed for a decade can win a significant victory before the snows fall.

While President Najibullah's Kabul government refuses to crack, the rebels' rival Afghan Interim Government (AIG) shows no signs of overcoming its divisions and incompetence.

International interest in Afghanistan is waning. The issue scarcely featured at last week's U.S.-Soviet talks in Wyoming.

Pakistani officials see no alternative to continued support for the AIG, which has publicly rejected all talk of compromise with the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

For Islamabad, dropping the Mujahedeen is unthinkable both politically and practically. Pakistan also rejects the other peace option most often raised among

diplomats — the return of the exiled former king, Zahir Shah. "The AIG has got to succeed — if they don't, then we don't know what will happen," a senior Pakistani official said.

Pakistan's frustration is all the grater since just months ago its allies seemed poised for victory after the departure of the last Soviet troops from its neighbour.

Since then rebel reverses in the field and Moscow's unwavering support for Najibullah have drawn a more realistic tone from officials in Islamabad.

"Militarily it is extremely unlikely that Kabul will fall," one official said.

A realistic objective would be a joint government in which Pakistan's friends have a reasonable share.

For the time being Pakistan and its U.S. allies are happy to pursue the military option — supplying arms to enable the Mujahedeen to fight on — at least until the winter.

They are trying to force the AIG to stop its internal bickering and embrace other Afghan forces.

AIG President Sibghatullah

Mojadidi left on Friday for Tehran in a new attempt to persuade Iran-based Shi'ite Muslim Mujahedeen to join the main alliance based in Pakistan.

Pakistani officials said it was also essential to win the support of Zahir Shah, who ruled for 40 years until his overthrow in 1973, for the AIG. A U.S. diplomat visited him in his Rome exile this month but failed to gain his backing.

Pakistan feels the AIG, with Zahir Shah and the minority Shi'ites behind it, could exert real pressure on Kabul.

It is not yet ready to accept the king as a neutral arbiter between the Mujahedeen and Najibullah's People's Democratic Party (PDDP). Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto last week described such a role for Zahir Shah as "pre-mature."

Army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg revealed a shift of emphasis, saying that with the departure of Najibullah the AIG should talk to the PDDP. Previously, that option was taboo.

Pakistani officials are showing considerable impatience with the AIG.

Photographer remembers day China stood up

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

PEKING — Hon Bo cried when she photographed Mao Tse-tung declaring the founding of new China 40 years ago.

"He represented the hopes and feelings of the Chinese people," said Hon, the only woman photographer on the Tiananmen Square rostrum on that bright fall day of Oct. 1, 1949.

Hon, 67, and her photographer husband, Xie Xiaohong, 73, joined the Communists in the caves of Yanan in the northwest and took thousands of pictures during the 1938-45 war against Japan and the 1945-49 civil war against Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists.

"We lived with the Red Army in Yanan. We fought against the Japanese. Then we went to Tiananmen together. I was so moved that my eyes were filled with tears when I took those pictures," Hon said.

In January 1949, after the Communists peacefully captured Peking, then called Peiping, Hon was assigned as a photographer at the Communist Party headquarters in the city.

By mid-1949, the Communists had seized Nanjing, the Nationalist capital, and Shanghai, and were swiftly moving southward. On Oct. 1, with Canton under siege and the Nationalists fleeing to Taiwan, Mao announced the founding of his new nation, the People's Republic.

Hon said Chou En-lai, China's much-admired premier, arrived first on the Tiananmen rostrum to assure that all the preparations were in order.

It was 3 p.m. when Mao pushed a button to raise the national flag of five yellow stars on red, telling a crowd of 100,000 that "the Chinese people have triumphed over their enemies, changed the face of their country and founded the People's Republic of China... The Chinese people, one-quarter of humanity, have stood up... from now on,

no one will insult us again." Among the dignitaries on the rostrum were Zhu De, commander-in-chief of the Red Army, Song Qing-Ling, sister-in-law of Chiang Kai-shek and later vice-chairman of the Chinese parliament, and Lin Shaoqi, the president-to-be who would be persecuted to death during the cultural revolution.

Tiananmen Square, the gate to the old forbidden city, or imperial palace, was "very shabby" in 1949, Hon said. There was no elevator to the rostrum, so the leaders scrambled up a steep stairway.

Tiananmen Square was about one-fourth the size of its current 40 hectares and enclosed in a red wall. Residential houses crowded the space outside the square now occupied by two massive arches of Socialist architecture, the Great Hall of the People and the History Museum.

Hon said the street in front of Tiananmen was far narrower than the 100-metre-wide Changan Avenue of today, and it took well into the evening before the total procession of 300,000 could pass by the rostrum and capture a glimpse of their new leaders.

They included soldiers riding horses, tanks and throngs of people singing revolutionary songs going back to the Red Army days in Yanan. One highlight was a flyover by Red Army pilots in American-made planes captured from the Nationalists.

"The people did not want to leave. They chanted, 'long live Mao Tse-tung, long live the Communist Party' and Chairman Mao shouted back 'long live the people' in a clear, resounding voice," said Xu, who was shooting a documentary that day.

He said the People's Republic has fulfilled Mao's goal of making China an independent, proud country free from foreign oppression. But like other elderly revolutionaries, he was stunned by the student protests this spring and is concerned about the changing values of young people.

Jordanian women move to break traditional, political barriers

(Continued from page 1)

which the country can little afford at this time. In fact the country's policies are beginning to veer in the other direction.

"We suffer the most"

"Women not only represent 50 per cent of the Jordanian population but also the 50 per cent which, in harsh economic situations, suffer the most," she asserted.

Highlighting women's "precarious position" in the workforce in which they account for approximately eight per cent, Nefaa said women were the first to be affected by unemployment, price rises and shortages whether at home or at work.

Nefaa's pointed reference was very sharp. With the economic slump of the 1980s when unemployment began to rise and wages to drop in real terms, there were voices that can still be heard today for women to return to the home and give more opportunity for men in the field.

Sweeping demands

The women's activist went much beyond the issue of women, and tackled thorny political domains head on with

a list of 23 demands, which included a call for lifting martial law, in force in Jordan since 1967, and abolishing the ban on political parties. She also questioned what she alleged were "arbitrary actions" by the security authorities in the area of issuance and confiscation of passports and issues related to civil service. Another demand was for the annulment of laws which she described as contravening the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution as well as all others which were enacted in the absence of parliament in the Kingdom.

Nefaa emphasised the need for changes in the Kingdom's economic policies and outlined what amounted to be a plan for protectionism and self-reliance, on a pan-Arab level if not on a national level. She demanded that stringent measures be taken to punish "all those who are guilty of economic crimes against Jordan," and called for measures to free the Kingdom from the "economic/political dependence on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund."

"The active participation of women in the workforce and political life is an essential necessity towards achieving these ends," she argued. "We should stop hiring foreign labour and offer opportunities to unem-

ployed Jordanian men and women. Then, may be, we will get somewhere."

Khadre, a prominent human rights lawyer, also sounded a similar note in her fiery, impromptu speech when she compared women in the workforce to reserve units of the army. "When we need them, we call on their services but when the need lessens we put them back in the barracks," she drew the parallel.

According to Khadre, there cannot be any restrictions on freedoms granted by the Constitution. "They must be enjoyed so the citizen can enjoy his/her rights to vote and run for parliament," she said. "These rights also include freedom of expression, freedom of travel, freedom of the press and freedom of work, and they must be enjoyed by every Jordanian citizen regardless of religious, ethnic or political affiliations," she asserted.

Nefaa and Khadre saw basic freedoms as the catalyst to enhancing the role of women in more pronounced tones than Sharaaf and Hijazi who appeared to view them as a separate issues, exclusive of each other.

Political awareness

While all the four panelists

agreed that political awareness was low among female voters in Jordan, they disagreed on how such a situation came into being in the Kingdom.

Nefaa and Khadre credit the situation to the state of martial law, which effectively froze the constitution since its imposition. The lack of political life in the country, absence of political parties and unions and curbs on freedom of expression, including a restricted press, have resulted in a low level of awareness among the electorate, especially among women who also face other traditional barriers such as difficulties in meeting the candidates, according to the school of thinking entertained by the lawyer and the activist.

"How can the voter, especially women, hope to participate when they effectively have been shielded from political life and parties?" asked Khadre. "When you are made afraid of expressing your opinion because of punishment such as a travel ban, you are less likely to take an active interest in politics," she asserted.

"How to choose your deputy?"

So under these grim conditions how does the Jordanian woman choose a candidate who can and will address the special

facing her?

In Sharaaf's opinion, a woman voter must choose a woman candidate to represent her voice in Parliament. Hijazi, on the other hand, favours voting for the best candidate, whether male or female, who can address the numerous inequalities against women ingrained in the laws themselves.

According to Nefaa, "the right candidate is the one who will secure our rights as citizens, who will do his/her best to bring about an end to martial law, and who will actively try to introduce and enforce legislation against infringements on our personal rights."

"The right candidate," she added forcefully, "is the one who will implement the provisions of the Constitution and make the necessary amendments to ensure the country's welfare in all areas."

Nefaa and Khadre want the best candidate but not one who is only concerned with women's rights but one who is capable of "honestly" dealing with the country's problems which also have a great impact on women.

While there is a general consensus that women should actively participate in elections, reality dictates otherwise. A formidable task awaits any candidate concerned with

women's right and problems, especially when it comes to legislation.

Certain provisions of present laws are seen by many women as hindering their progress and advancement in the society. One of such legislation is the condition that a married woman has to have her husband's permission to obtain a passport.

"Do you know how demeaning that is?" asked a woman in the audience.

Similarly, the laws governing "crimes of passion," many argue, are definitely slanted in the man's favour. "Do you know that I have to get my father's permission to get married if it is the first time?" asked another voice from the audience. Of course, the status quo is satisfactory to many.

Even if these laws were to be scrapped tomorrow, social equality seems to be even a more formidable goal to attain if only because of the centuries-old constraints imposed by the society. Women in Jordan have certainly come a long way since that fateful day in 1957 in a downtown cinema... but they certainly have a very long trek ahead. But, as it emerged from last week's debate, they are braced for a battle and have already taken the first step into the battlefield.

Chinese sculptor carves his way to Europe

By Guy Dismore
Reuters

PEKING — China's artists have a hard time making ends meet but if there was a "selling refrigerator to Eskimos Award", Ye Shuang would be a top contender.

Past the sprawling capital iron and steel works and just before the fragrant hills rise out of the flatlands of Peking, Ye is building a castle-like residence where he is modelling himself after a renaissance art master.

Inside, trucks deliver boulders from which this 34-year-old sculptor and his 50 apprentices hope to build fame and fortune — by selling European statues to Europe.

Ye's figures in white and black marble stand, lie and crouch

around the "castle" grounds — abstract shapes, imperial lions, traditional Chinese deities and, looking over them all, a copy of the Venus de Milo.

Zyes, European companies are very keen. They've ordered quite a few," said Ye, stroking the head of his copy of the classical Greek beauty.

A Belgian firm has ordered 100 statues — both Western Classical and traditional Oriental — and he hopes a Spanish firm will sign a contract soon.

Ye has been in business for only six months.

Unhappy with his treatment at the Tianjin art institute where he was a teacher but felt his promotion hindered, he left to be independent.

Ye borrowed \$135,000 from

banks, using farmland on the Western outskirts leased by a rural collective as security. He has hired 50 young men and women and is teaching them the art of sculpture — from sketches to studios to outdoors where they chip and chisel statues for export.

Their workmanship is inexpensive and quality almost as good as abroad, Ye said. For a 1.3-metre Venus de Milo, taking 50 days to make, he earns 3,500 yuan (950 dollars).

Business is not straightforward in China. The foreign trade ministry introduced the Belgian and Spanish companies to Ye. It also sets the price for his statues and pockets the takings.

Instead of francs and pesetas which could be used to buy scarce goods, Ye is given Chinese yuan,

which cannot.

"They limit your profits to 20 per cent. They calculate everything. They know everything — our wages and investment, everything," Ye said with a smile.

"All we get is yuan," he said laughing. "Their profits are a secret."

To escape this state-controlled network, Ye and his partners are looking for a foreign firm to set up a joint venture which would allow them to trade directly with the outside world.

Unlike many Chinese artists who have left their homeland to develop their talents, Ye decided to stay. His first love is not copying Chinese or Western classics but creating his own abstract work which, for the moment, he is reluctant to sell.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging: A General Electric machine probes the depths of the body.

A new dimension to medicine

By Phillipa Neave

PARIS — An unprecedented look into the depths of the body, not only to scan details of the anatomy but also to see a heart beating or blood circulating through the brain: That is the promise of a revolutionary new technology called Magnetic Resonance Imaging or MRI.

The MRI machine looks like a metal doughnut, almost 4 metres tall and with a circular opening almost 1 metre in diameter, through which a patient is slid on a horizontal bed. The long tunnel is connected to a series of computers and video monitors that allow doctors and technicians to examine and process the data obtained as the patient's entire body is scanned. The difference between the MRI technology and conventional types of scanners is that MRI does not use X-rays, which can have harmful side effects if the procedure is repeated too often.

In effect, the MRI tunnel is an extremely powerful magnet that creates a magnetic field around the patient. "The enormous advantage of MRI is that it is painless, non-invasive, totally harmless and at the same time extremely precise," said Jean Benoit, chief of the radiology department at the prestigious American Hospital in Paris. The hospital recently acquired a state-of-the-art MRI station, manufactured by General Electric. The equipment includes a 20-tonne magnet of 1.5 T (Tesla: the measure of magnetic power), an unusually high capacity considering that most MRI equipment currently in use has magnets of 0.3, 0.5 or 0.8 T.

When the probe starts, the magnetic field around the patient activates the hydrogen atoms that are contained in practically every cell of the human body, causing the atoms to align themselves. The machine then emits a radio signal that upsets the pattern of the atoms. When the signal is stopped, the atoms realign themselves, and in doing so release a small amount of electrical energy. This creates a signal that is picked up by sensors in the MRI machine, whose powerful computers can process millions of bits of information within seconds, producing a remarkably clear and precise image on a television screen.

"What is revolutionary about MRI is that it can produce cross-sections of organs and parts of the body in every direction, while (conventional) scanners only produce vertical cross-sections," the 65-year-old Benoit explained. MRI enables doctors to look at an image of the heart, brain or liver from every angle as if they could run a probe throughout the body. Equally revolutionary is the fact that MRI can produce perfect images of soft tissues such as muscle, tumors, nerves, tendons and arteries, which is impossible to obtain with a scanner or X-rays, these technologies being unable to distinguish the density of muscle and nerves, for example.

But MRI requires very specific installation. Explained Guy Delalande, 43, a radiologist and MRI specialist at the American Hospital, "The whole room has to be enclosed in a hermetic copper cage which isolates the machine completely from anything that might interfere with the magnetic field." In addition, the magnetic activity generates a lot of heat, so the whole apparatus must be continually cooled with a system using liquid helium.

Almost anyone can have an MRI scanning, except patients with pacemakers or permanently implanted metallic pins of the kind used to repair severe bone fractures. "An MRI examination can take anywhere from 15 minutes to one hour, or more, so people cannot be claustrophobic," Delalande said. Patients must remain immobile, which is why children are usually sedated before the procedure starts.

Another extremely useful feature of MRI is that unlike any other machine, it can produce an animated image, like a video of what is going on inside the body. This is particularly valuable in cardiovascular medicine because every part of the heart can be seen at work — or malfunctioning — as the heart beats. Said MRI radiologist and heart specialist Elie Mousseaux: "We can get an extremely clear cross-section view of how fast blood is flowing through the arteries and cavities of the heart. This is inconceivable without MRI. For that sort of test, we used to have to insert tubes into people's hearts or inject dyes that would show up on X-rays. Also for the first time, we can measure very precisely the size of the heart, which is very important."

Added Delalande, "we can record all this on video tapes and send these to the patient's surgeon or researchers who are not there when we do the testing."

According to the radiologist, MRI is particularly valuable where the nervous system, the brain and bone marrow are concerned. "Until now, we had no way of seeing clearly any of these, now we can get images of spectacular clarity," he said. "We can see bone marrow perfectly and distinguish between the grey and white matter in the brain."

The MRI machine's computers store information on a hard disk from which it can put on tapes to be re-examined. More astonishing still is what technicians can do while the examination is going on. They can enlarge or reduce images on the television monitors, as well as slow down or speed up the filmed motion. At the press of a button they can obtain a film transparency of the image or series of images that appear on the screen. The transparencies look just like conventional X-ray images but can be produced in a mere two minutes. The installation at the American Hospital has two computer terminals, one to set the parameters of an examination and actually control the process, the other to work on previous data.

Interpreting images

Special training is required for technicians, who must learn how to operate specific computer programmes, and for radiologists. "We are still at the stage where we are learning to interpret the images. We compare them to other methods of diagnosis and try to reach the best diagnosis by doing the fewest possible tests," said Delalande, who has been a radiologist for 15 years. He admits that with the development of MRI and other new technologies, about 30 or 40 per cent of the information he learned just over a decade ago is now obsolete.

MRI is not a replacement, however, for earlier technologies, he noted. Conventional X-rays are more suitable for certain types of examinations, in particular those of the lung. "A patient cannot stop lung movement completely for the 18 or so seconds it would take to get an MRI picture," Delalande said. "X-rays are also the best way of diagnosing a bone fracture. X-rays will continue to occupy one third of the radiology field, and (conventional) scanners also remain extremely valuable."

Chances of recovery

Added his colleague Mousseaux, 31, who has been working with MRI for four years: "MRI is really a complement to other methods of diagnosis and is extremely effective in certain fields. In neurology, MRI enables us to detect certain ailments up to a year or more before any symptoms have appeared. Certain neurological defects or diseases run in the family and were long considered untreatable (by the time they were diagnosed). Now we can start treatments at a very early stage — before the damage

is done — and the chances of recovery are far greater."

Although the MRI tests are painless, some patients find the process intimidating and tend to associate scans with very serious illnesses. "It is important to stress that MRI examinations are not used only in serious cases. For example, it is the best way of diagnosing knee injuries," Delalande pointed out. Said a young woman who had volunteered to undergo a head scan as a demonstration: "I didn't feel anything at all, it was just rather noisy — like hundreds of little hammers banging around me."

The future of MRI technology is wide open, and many who work in the field believe that they have entered a new world. "It is terribly exciting to be working in a field that didn't even exist 10 years ago. We feel we are only at the beginning and that it is up to us to make this technology evolve," Mousseaux said. The principle of magnetic resonance was first formulated in 1942, but the idea of using the technology to produce images didn't develop until 1972. The first machines went into operation in the early 1980s, but with about 600 machines being used in America and 35 in France, the technology is still in what experts call "the infant stage." The future of MRI, one of the fastest-growing areas of medical technology, depends not on refining the equipment itself but on the programmes that can be written for the computers.

A key point for MRI research and development activities is General Electric's Clinical Evaluation Centre in Buc, a town some 20 kilometres outside Paris. In a major deal two years ago, General Electric took over much of the Buc centre, which had been built by the French company Thomson-Compagnie Generale de Radiologie in 1984.

"General Electric decided to develop and expand the Buc centre as part of its plan to increase its share in the French and European market," explained Simon Duquesne, head of GE's Paris-area operations. GE, which employs 3,000 people in the Buc centre and two factories in the Paris area, controls 60 per cent of the market for MRI technology in France. Its main competitors are the German manufacturer Siemens and the Dutch Philips conglomerate.

According to Duquesne, coop-

eration between the 30 or so French and American scientists at Buc is the source of major progress in the development of MRI technology. The scientists submit their test results and recommendations to GE, which forwards the information to its U.S. headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There the data is used to develop new technology. In all, GE has 400 scientists and technicians working on research and development in the X-ray and MRI fields.

The company manufactures about 100 machines annually, mostly in the United States but also in Japan. Several factors may slow the initial boom, however. In France, special ministerial authorisation is required for hospitals and clinics wishing to acquire MRI equipment, because of government regulations restricting the geographical distribution of major medical facilities.

Another factor sure to affect the growth of the MRI market is the high cost of the equipment, which offers relatively low returns. A top-of-the-line model such as the SIGNA 1.5 T, which has been in operation since early June at the American Hospital, costs about \$3.5 million, according to Victor Dial, chairman of the board of governors of the hospital. "The installations required are colossal. It took us nine months and 59 tonnes of plate to build the special underground room to isolate the machine," he added.

"This is the biggest possible investment in medical hardware," he said. "In a way, it is kind of scary: for that price a few years ago, you could build a small hospital." The American Hospital, a non-profit organisation, financed the purchase by obtaining a bank loan and soliciting what Dial described as "special gifts."

"We are still soliciting gifts," he noted.

An examination costs FF 3,000 (\$500) regardless of how long it takes. "Our MRI will be a busy machine, we plan to keep it working on Saturdays and Sundays, starting in the wee hours of the morning," Dial said. Plans are to examine between 10 and 15 patients a day.

The American Hospital is also making its equipment available at no charge to two French teams involved in analysing the chemical composition of the body's organs — World News Link.

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Seminar on housing and development opens

Jordan needs 25,000 housing units annually, Khatib says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is in need of 25,000 housing units annually, something which will cost the country nearly JD 250 million or 12.5 per cent of the total national income, Minister of Energy and Acting Minister of Public Works and Housing Hisham Al Khatib said Sunday.

"Indeed, the housing sector in Jordan accounted for the greater portion of investments in the country's development plans; and in the 1976-1980 plan, it acquired nearly 21 per cent of the total investments," the minister said in a statement at the opening of a seminar on housing and development.

A total of 11 Arab countries are represented at the three-day conference which has been organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) in cooperation with the Housing Corporation.

"The main aim of Jordan's national housing strategy is to find decent homes for Jordanian citizens within acceptable environmental conditions and for this reason, the housing sector in the country is continually shouldering increasing burdens represented in the construction and maintenance of homes and providing the essential infrastructure for housing projects," the minister noted.

Khatib called for measures to be taken to help Jordan use building materials at lower cost. He said that the national build-

ing code, which was recently endorsed by the government, takes into consideration new trends and techniques in building homes.

Housing Corporation Director General Yousef Hiyasat outlined to the meeting the main features of the national housing strategy.

He said the plan envisages new financial sources, increasing savings by individuals to help carry out projects, introducing new sets of specifications and new building materials, as well as making arrangements to meet the desires for different types of homes especially for the limited income groups.

UNCHS Regional Director Ali Chabbot told the meeting that the organization is striving to attain the objective of finding homes for every citizen by the 2000.

But, he said, "this target cannot be met unless appropriate

mobilisation of efforts and resources at the national and regional levels can be made.

Working papers to be discussed by the delegates deal with housing in general, housing in relation with development, modern trends in providing homes, as well as case studies from Iraq and Morocco.

The first working paper presented by Hiyasat later came under discussion. The paper outlined the criteria for housing and the aims of the national strategy as well as the development of housing projects in the Kingdom.

The conference coincides with Jordan's celebrations of the Arab Housing Day and International Housing Day. Representatives of regional and international organizations attended the opening session.

ILO, Jordanian teams discuss unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — A visiting team from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Sunday called at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and discussed unemployment in Jordan.

The team, which arrived here Friday, reviewed with Jordanian officials ways in which ILO can assist Jordan to deal with the problem of unemployment through integrated projects.

A statement after the meeting reflected the ILO team's views that one way of dealing with the issue lies in creating jobs for the unemployed in new agricultural, production and services projects in the Kingdom.

The ILO team recommended that vocational training courses be increased and its standard improved so that nationals can replace non-Jordanian workers

within a given time, and that double efforts should be made to raise the standard of skilled Jordanian workers to help them find employment abroad.

Labour Minister Jamal Bdoor said in a statement last Sunday that at least nine per cent of the total Jordanian workforce was now jobless and that 44,000 non-Jordanians are assuming jobs that could be taken over by Jordanian job-seekers who include 20,000 school graduates, and a similar number of college and university graduates.

The minister made the statement at the opening of a seminar for a group of Labour Ministry inspectors charged with ensuring that the Ministry of Labour laws are being implemented at all factories and various other businesses in the Kingdom.

U.S. experts predict continued slow growth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many economists who were concerned earlier this year that a recession might be imminent are now predicting the nation's longest peacetime economic expansion will reach its seventh birthday in December.

"I think if we're going to have a recession it probably won't start before then and I still think we will squeeze through 1990 without one," said Lawrence Chimerine, senior economic adviser at the World Group in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. "But it won't be very buoyant growth."

The economy has been growing steadily since November 1982 when the nation came out of its last recession, but many thought it might be pushed into another downturn this year by the federal reserve's efforts to slow inflation.

Beginning in March 1988, the Fed, as the U.S. Central Bank is known, gradually tightened the nation's credit supply. Its goal became known as the "soft-landing" — continued but slower economic growth to keep inflationary pressures in check.

Analysts were watching Thursday's release of the government's index of leading indicators, its chief economic forecasting gauge, for an indication of that growth in the months ahead. The index is designed to foretell economic

activity for the next six to nine months.

So far this year, the leading indicators have bounced back and forth — up in January, April and July, unchanged in June, and down in February, March and May.

In the past, three consecutive declines sometimes — but not always — have signaled a forthcoming recession.

"This trendless result for 1989 seems consistent with the slow growth experience of the overall economy," Ysabel Burns McAleer of the American Financial Services Association said.

Some economists, like David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston and Co., a New York government securities dealer, try to avoid the "soft-landing" description.

"The term is so overused that I hate to use it," Jones said. "In some sense, it's not a landing story at all. It's an economy that's growing at lower altitude of GNP (gross national product) growth than we saw last year."

The lower altitude is reflected in several recent reports by government and private economists.

The Fed's latest survey of conditions around the country, for instance, found the economy continuing to grow at the midpoint of the third quarter at a pace ranging from slow to moderate.

Japan's robot industry booms

TOKYO (R) — Growing disdain for manual labour among upwardly mobile Japanese workers has sent companies scrambling to buy robots and other machines incapable of such snobbish sentiments.

The manufacturing industry, the magician behind Japan's economic miracle, is now facing its most acute labour shortage since 1974, according to the Bank of Japan's August report.

Wealthy young Japanese are spurning the factory and assembly-line jobs at which their parents excelled, and companies are snapping up robots and other sophisticated machines to take their place.

The "robot rush" has become a major theme in the Tokyo Stock Market as analysts predict the labour shortage will continue for a long time.

"If humans won't get their hands dirty, then you have to buy robots or other machines," said Mark Kopinski, analyst at Salomon Brothers Brokerage in Tokyo.

Two major Japanese banks released reports this week saying manufacturing company expenditure on machines in the year to March 31, 1990, is expected to grow sharply.

The Industrial Bank of Japan, quoting 2,891 respondents to a survey, said capital spending by manufacturing companies is likely to reach 7.15 trillion yen (\$50 billion) for the year to March 31, 1990, up 23.9 per cent from a year earlier.

The Japan Development Bank predicted a similar increase.

Such spending will hasten the ascent of the robot and swell the coffers of companies making them, analysts said.

"There will be a lot of earning surprises among companies that make high-technology machines and robots," Kopinski said.

Fanciful Japan's biggest robot maker, predicts its sales of the machines will rise to 38.2 billion yen (\$270 million) in the year to March 31, 1990 from 32.2 billion (\$228 million) a year earlier.

Unlike those in futuristic movies, few robots are made in the image of man. But many are capable of a wide range of movements and can be programmed by a central computer chip "brain" to perform several tasks.

Robots move with a series of joints and pivots that sometimes makes them resemble human limbs. Many, like the Fanuc robot Arc Mate, are endowed with laser "vision", which enables them to detect some objects.

One construction company, the Ohbayashi Corporation, has developed a machine that hammers in steel girders and aligns cross-beams with a minimum of human help. It slashes building time almost in half, the company says.

Smaller, more esoteric aspects of robot culture are also in hot demand, especially numerical control systems that are the "brains" behind most factory automation, analysts said.

"The name robot has started to have quite a wide application," said Stephen Marvin, analyst at Jardine Fleming Brokerage in Tokyo. "Some machines are called robots just because they have a computer chip control."

Analysts said manufacturing companies would suffer a labour shortage for the foreseeable future because the disinclination of Japanese to do sweaty, strenuous work was likely to grow in step with their salaries.

"I think this is a structural change rather than short-term one," said Marvin. "And therefore the investment in robots, automated machines and their parts suppliers will continue."

The government appears to be working its way around to rejecting one possible solution to the labour shortage: allowing an influx of cheap Asian workers.

"It would be difficult to allow all these people to come here to work because the Japanese people are afraid it will change society too quickly and lead to crime," said a Foreign Ministry official.

Memo recommends Jordan-Italy accord

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has referred to the Cabinet a memorandum recommending that Italy and Jordan sign an agreement on economic and technical cooperation. The government is to set up a joint committee to follow up a study on projected schemes that can be launched jointly by the two countries in Jordan prior to concluding the agreement.

'Global temperature has damaged future development prospects'

LONDON (R) — World temperatures and sea levels will rise sharply in the next few decades, placing low-lying countries at severe risk from flooding and other natural disasters, a Commonwealth report has said.

The report, to be submitted to next month's summit of the 49-nation group in Malaysia, said climate changes due to global warming were caused by man, and damaged future development prospects.

It said there was a scientific consensus that the world's mean surface temperature, which has risen 0.5 degrees Centigrade (one degree Fahrenheit) in the past century, would go up by at least 1.2 degrees Centigrade (2.4 degrees Fahrenheit) in the next 40 years.

"By 2030 the Earth is likely to be warmer than at any time in the past 120,000 years," the report noted. "One of the consequences of global warming would be the expansion of the oceans and some melting of ice caps and glaciers," it added.

It said a scientific "best guess" figure was that sea level, which has gone up 10-15 centimetres (four to six inches) over the last 100 years, would rise a further 17-26 cm (seven to 10 inches) by 2030.

"Sea level rise could have far reaching social and economic effects on low lying coastal areas, as in Guyana, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Kiribati, Tuvalu and other Commonwealth countries," the report added.

It said a nine metre sea level rise would flood 15 per cent of Bangladesh, directly affecting 10 million people. Bangladesh was hit by massive flooding, cyclones and tidal waves in 1987 and 1988, causing widespread death and destruction.

Other effects would see wet areas becoming drier and tropical storms increasing in intensity. The report, drawn up over the

last two years by nine experts under the chairmanship of Martin Holdgate, head of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, said the burning of fossil fuel was the major reason for the build-up of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide.

"Human activities are undoubtedly altering the chemical composition of the atmosphere," it said. "Greenhouse gas emissions... in the atmosphere have increased considerably in recent decades, in parallel with the rapid expansion of the world economy."

Incessant expansion of humanity's consumption of natural resources, and the rapid growth of human population were also putting "unsustainable pressure" on the environment.

"Climate change, caused by 'greenhouse gas pollution', is bound to make sustainable development more difficult," it said.

The 100-page report said developing countries such as the poorer Commonwealth members are the most vulnerable, as their economies are more dependent on agriculture and natural resources.

But developing countries need to grow rapidly to reduce poverty and could not be expected to curb that growth to alleviate a global problem they have done little to create, it said.

Calling for greater cooperation in international monitoring, research and evaluation of climate change, it predicted that the burden of measures to reduce emissions would fall overwhelmingly on the developed world.

But it added that even when emissions were curbed, and gas concentrations in the atmosphere stabilised, other factors such as heat storage in the oceans meant "the Earth will continue to warm and the seas to rise for some decades."

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Khatib to attend ACC meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib is to take part in the first meeting of ministers of energy from The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries. The meeting which will be held in Baghdad on Oct. 7 is expected to discuss ways to promote ACC cooperation in energy-related fields.

CBJ to meet market needs of dollars

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central bank of Jordan Sunday issued a new memorandum, informing all banks and licensed financial institutions that it is ready to meet their needs for U.S. dollars at the price of 685 fils, provided that such banks and institutions will sell it for 690 fils and not to collect any commission. The new prices will be effective as of Monday, the CBJ memo noted. The bank's measures come in implementation of its policy, designed to stabilise the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar and to enable the bankers to meet the needs of their clients. (Petra)

Kenya raises petrol prices

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya, hit by fuel shortages caused by international oil companies demanding price increases, has raised retail prices of petrol and all petroleum products by between 12 and 29 per cent. Energy Minister Nicholas Biwott told reporters the price rises took effect immediately.

CEAU chief calls for marketing products from occupied lands

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim Sunday called for giving priority to marketing the occupied Arab territories products.

Addressing the CAEU's committee on customs, commerce planning and coordination affairs, Ibrahim said that the development of inter-Arab trade should receive due considera-

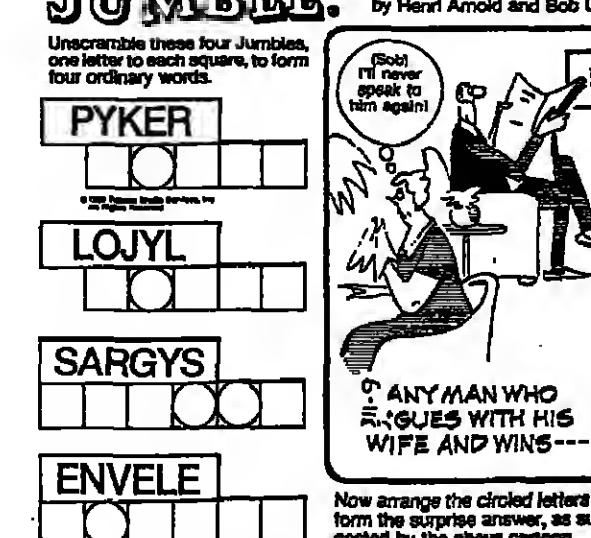
tions, because of its relevance to the various economic sectors and its positive effects on such sectors.

The four-day meetings will discuss customs and trade issues. Taking part in the meetings are representatives for Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, Egypt, South Yemen, North Yemen and Libya.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.
Print answer here:
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Yesterday's Jumble: BARGE AZURE DABBLE YELLOW
Answer: He wanted to become a lawyer badly, but ended up becoming this — A BAD LAWYER

Lufthansa to raise basic capital by DM304 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lufthansa, the West German airlines, is to increase its basic capital by DM304 million to DM1,520 billion, via an issue of common shares.

The decision by the executive board was reached in agreement with the supervisory board. A capital increase of up to DM310 million was approved at the company's annual general meeting in July.

The new shares, which for 1989 are fully entitled to profit sharing, are to be sold at DM 155 a piece. They will be offered to company

shareholders at a ratio of 4:1. The subscription period will be from Oct. 9 until Oct. 23, 1989.

The share issue is aimed at increasing Lufthansa's own capital in preparation for the growth of commercial aviation that is expected for the 1990s.

Because the federal government will not be participating in the capital increase, its holding in the company will drop to about 52 per cent. Shares not to be purchased by the government will be placed outside the stock market by a group of domestic banks.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, October 1, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	617.1	623.1	97.2
Pound Sterling	999.9	1009.9	443.8
Deutsche mark	330.0	333.3	291.8
Swiss franc	381.1	384.9	294.7
French franc			95.6
Japanese yen (for 100)			45.7
Dutch guilder			45.8
Swedish crown			155.8
Italian lira (for 100)			157.4
Belgian franc (for 10)			

Rafsanjani promises better economic future

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has called for an all-out drive to boost agricultural and industrial output and said his government will streamline the country's cumbersome bureaucracy.

Rafsanjani promised his countrymen "you can rest assured that in two or three years your country will have a healthy economy."

Rafsanjani's most pressing problem is to tackle spiralling inflation officially 23 per cent annually but unofficially estimated at many times higher. That is compounded by a shortage of hard cash to fund a major post-war reconstruction drive.

In the broadcast on Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, Rafsanjani blamed the runaway inflation on insufficient domestic production in agriculture and industry.

"To alleviate these shortages, we must use the full capacities of

existing factories," Rafsanjani said. Factories are now operating at 30 to 40 per cent capacity.

Long lines and empty shelves in the government-subsidised stores are evidence of the country's sluggish economy, which hit rock bottom during the eight-year Gulf war that halted in August last year.

Since the ceasefire, much of the up to \$10 billion spent on the war has been diverted to reviving the dormant economy.

Rafsanjani, 55, leads the so-called pragmatists whose first priority is to get the economy back on its feet. He has been concentrating on improving living standards as fast as possible.

Commodity shortages are compounded by a top-heavy, inefficient bureaucracy.

After the 1979 revolution, the Islamic government strangled what had been an efficient private sector. Rafsanjani said a govern-

ment programme to resuscitate the private sector has been approved and will soon be implemented.

Nevertheless, to alleviate acute food and consumer goods shortages the government set aside \$6 billion in hard currency to boost imports by 55 per cent in the next six months.

Iran attained self-sufficiency in food due to the agricultural reforms of the deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. But under the Islamic government, the country has become a net importer.

The economy is racing to deal with problems caused by fast growth in the population, currently 50 million. At the current annual growth of 3.7 per cent, that will have doubled by 2010.

Tin finance imports needed to feed the growing population, Iranian leaders have planned mas-

sive investments in the oil and gas-related industries in order to boost production.

About \$2 billion has been invested in the petroleum industry this year alone.

Currently, many imported consumer goods paid for with precious foreign exchange find their way into a flourishing black market, or "free market," where they are sold for more than 10 times the official price.

Rafsanjani has indicated the government may use the private sector as a source of capital by selling off some nationalised industries.

He said Friday that export regulations must be streamlined.

"By the time a poor merchant can get through the red tape and finally put his goods on an outbound ship, half his products perish, Rafsanjani said. "What kind of administration is this?"

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



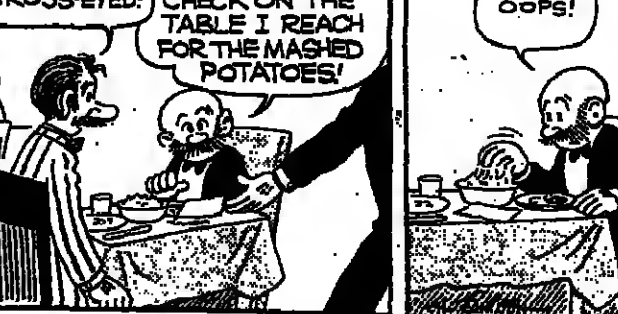
Andy Capp



I THINK WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT SOMETIMES HE JUST GETS TIRED OF EATING ALONE..



YEH! WHEN THE WAITER PUTS THE CHECK ON THE TABLE I REACH FOR THE MASHED POTATOES!



I'M THINKING ABOUT HAVING MINE PAID DIRECTLY INTO THE PUB



Flare-throwers flares in Playboy

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Rosemary Melo Nascimento, the young woman who launched a signal flare onto the field during a World Cup qualifying match between Brazil and Chile, will appear nude in the Brazilian edition of Playboy magazine.

Eight color photographs of Ms. Nascimento will appear in a 10-page photo essay that will hit the news stands in mid-November, managing editor Carlos Maranhao told the Associated Press by phone.

Ms. Nascimento will also appear on the issue's cover, he added.

The photo sessions took two days and were held in Sao Paulo. "Playboy, out of respect for its readers is always on the look out for pretty and famous women and no one can deny that Rosemary fits this description," Maranhao said.

He would not reveal how much Ms. Nascimento was paid for posing nude.

The Sept. 3 match between Chile and Brazil, played in Rio De Janeiro's Maracana Stadium, was suspended in the second half after Ms. Nascimento set off a signal flare that landed on the field.

The Chileans claimed the flare hit goalie Roberto Rojas on the forehead, who walked off the field. Brazil was leading 1-0 at the time.

One week later the International Federation of Association Football, known by its French initials as FIFA, declared Brazil the winner, ruling Chile had "abandoned the field."

The decision confirmed Brazil's presence in the 1990 World Cup in Rome and eliminated Chile.

Robson hits out at hooligans

LONDON (R) — England soccer manager Bobby Robson said Saturday his team's build-up to the World Cup finals in Italy next year had been damaged by trouble-making fans.

In a television interview, Robson said he bitterly regretted that England's friendly against the Netherlands in December had been called off because of fears of clashes between rival fans.

"It would have been a marvelous match and one we needed to play," said Robson. "We need to take on the best countries in the world."

"The behaviour of some fans is abysmal and it is stopping our football. But these people won't win."

Robson said he supported a section of the government's proposed membership card scheme for league clubs, which will keep convicted supporters at special centres to stop them going to matches.

"We have to identify these culprits and get them to court and sentence them," Robson added. "There are people who badly misbehave and some of them are still getting away with it."



Martina Navratilova

Navratilova wins 'kiss 100'

HAVERFORD, Pennsylvania (AP) — Martina Navratilova defeated Betsy Nagelsen 6-2, 7-5 Saturday to win her third straight Kiss 100 invitational.

Nagelsen, who lost to Navratilova in last year's final, defeated Chris Evert in the semifinals Friday night.

"I've learned this year not to look ahead, not to anticipate playing someone, and then having to play someone else," Navratilova said of the spoiled plans for a match with Evert. "Obviously

playing Chris it would be easier to get up for."

After three consecutive service breaks to start the match, Navratilova never again allowed Nagelsen a break point.

In the second set, Nagelsen held serve until the 11th game, when Navratilova took command with a backhand passing shot, followed by a strong return which forced an error.

Navratilova then served out the match for the championship and the \$20,000 first prize.

Lendl, Sanchez to clash at Bordeaux

BORDEAUX, France (AP) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, the top-ranked player in the world, moved into the final of the \$255,000 passing shot men's tennis tournament with a methodical 6-3, 6-3, victory over Jaime Yzaga of Peru Saturday.

Lendl will meet Emilio Sanchez of Spain, the second seed who won the other semifinal by beating France's Jean-Philippe Fleurian, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-1.

Lendl knows what it will be like against Sanchez.

"It will be difficult," Lendl said. "He will run for his life for everything. He must be playing well if he's in the final, but I have beaten him both times before."

After struggling over the past two tournaments, Lendl had no trouble moving past the fourth-seeded Yzaga. In the first set Lendl broke the Peruvian's service in the third game and ninth game by taking advantage of Yzaga's mistakes at crucial times. Lendl had a previous record of 3-0 against Yzaga.

Lendl kept up his steady pace



Ivan Lendl

in the second set and was never threatened. He broke Yzaga in the fourth game on three unforced errors to make the score 3-1. Lendl wasted two set points in the eighth game as Yzaga battled back to make the score 5-3. But the Czech served out the match on his next game.

"I had a lot of chances and didn't take advantage of them in the second set," Lendl said. "You really need to do that to play well."

In the other semifinal, Sanchez battled from behind to defeat Fleurian, who had beaten the no. 3 seed, Austria's Horst Skoff, and the no. 5 seed, Goran Prpic of Yugoslavia, previously.

After losing the first in the tiebreaker, Sanchez held to win the second, 6-4. He then dominated the third set, winning six straight games after Fleurian held service in the first game.

"I was doubting myself after the first set," Sanchez said. "But I felt I could win because I knew it would be difficult for him to keep up the pace."

"I did very well in the first two sets but my legs gave out," Fleurian said. However, it was his best effort in a Grand Prix tournament.

Joyner's manager questions German report

NEW YORK (AP) — The business adviser for Florence Griffith Joyner questioned Saturday how the Germans could know that the thigh muscles of the triple Olympic gold medalist had expanded two inches (5 centimetres) in one year, as suggested in the magazine Stern.

"Since when have the East Germans ever been close enough to Florence to measure her thighs?" Gordian Baskin said in a telephone interview.

Baskin said that Griffith Joyner's husband, Al Joyner, the 1984 Olympic triple jump gold medalist, "has photographs of Florence when she was in full stride (in the 1984 Olympics, when she won the silver medal in the 200-metre dash) and publicised photos of her when she was in full stride in 1988."

"From the photos Al has, you can't tell the difference in Florence's makeup from 1984 to 1988, except for her hairdo, which is different," Baskin said. "Her legs and body are virtually the same."

On Thursday, Stern, a West German magazine, said that East German report on the 1988 Seoul Olympics alleged there was evidence that Griffith Joyner

used performance-enhancing drugs.

"Such growth is possible only with a helping substance," Stern quoted the report as saying.

A week earlier, Stern published allegations by Darrell Robinson, the 1986 U.S. champion at 400 metres, that he purchased growth hormones from Griffith Joyner.

Griffith Joyner, winner of 1988 Olympic golds in the 100-metre and 200-metre dashes and the 400-metre relay, denied Robinson's allegations and called him "a compulsive liar."

"Stern is now running to hide behind the East Germans with secret reports," Baskin said. "It's indicative of their authoritarian tactics. Their officials sound like they're whispering school-boys."

"They can't absorb the facts that the East and West Germans lost so decisively to Florence in last year's Olympics," he said. "The officials apparently are taking a lot of heat that they couldn't win. Those comments by the East Germans sound like sour grapes. It's so wrong and unbecoming to make those kinds of statements."



Griffith Joyner — perfect muscles

"This girl did nothing wrong but win — and win decisively," he said.

Baskin said that the charges by the Germans were surprising because of all the fan mail that Griffith Joyner receives, "more from Germany than any country in the world, except from the United States, of course."

He also said that Griffith Joyner plans "to pursue her lawsuit against Stern."

In addition to her three Olympic gold medals, Griffith Joyner won a silver in the 1,600-metre relay at Seoul. She also set world records in the 100 and 200 last year.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE MAKING OF A MARTYR

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 6 3
♥ 8 7 4
♦ 5 4 2
♣ J 9 5

EAST
♠ 3 9 4
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ K 9 8 3
♣ A 2

SOUTH
♠ A 5 2
♥ A K J 6
♦ K 6 4
♣ K 6 4

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠
By his very nature, man tends to cling to his assets. But once in a while a timely divestiture can bring huge returns.

South's bidding showed a balanced 23-24 points, so North had just enough to raise to game—had his king been a queen, game would probably have been in order. West led his fourth-best club. You correctly inserted dummy's nine to see if that would fetch the queen, and East rose with the ace. Before you

commit yourself at trick one, consider how you would tackle the hand.

First, count your tricks. With the ace of clubs gone, there are seven. The two more you need will have to come from the diamond suit. Since the diamond finesse must work if you're going to succeed (allow West to gain the lead with the king of diamonds and he is going to be able to run his clubs), you will need either a second diamond finesse or a 3-3 split.

Obviously, a second finesse would be the better proposition. However, there seems to be only one entry to dummy—the king of spades. Is there a way around that impasse?

Jettison the king of clubs under the ace! If West's last was fourth-best, the Rule of 11 tells you that East started with only one card higher than the seven, and he just played it. Therefore, dummy's club jack will be a sure entry.

Whether East returns a club or not, you are in control. You use your two black-suit entries to dummy for two diamond finesses. If the cards lie as in the diagram, that will net you three tricks in diamonds for a total of nine—all you contracted for!

THE Daily Crossword by Craig Schultz

ACROSS
1 Title and terms
5 Time bank in boat, sport
10 Quick to learn
13 "... true what?"
14 Sea eye to
15 Start together
16 Detail
17 Catfish
18 Turk, titles
19 Added words to
21 Violent disturbance
23 Counsel
25 School measure
26 Stuck in mud
28 Stamp
30 Shopper's delight
31 "For" a jolly
34 Chin, dynasty
35 MGM name
36 — estate
37 In favor of
38 Air vehicles
39 Donkey
40 — metabolism
41 Leap
42 Process for spring (part one)
43 Borneo
44 Admonitions
45 Navy
46 Cowy d—
47 Raced
48 Shogun
49 Puts to work
50 A Kennedy
51 Whore
52 Salamander

DOWN
1 Blend
2 Isaac's son
3 Arm or leg
4 Flamingo

5 Frank
6 Anne
7 Second part of proverb
8 Tallest
9 Weather on damaged things
10 Southsayer
11 Sacred song
12 Time out
13 Waded
14 God of love
15 Mah Jongg piece
16 Sherry display
17 Arab VP
18 Casino city
19 Mr. Pussell
20 Plant
21 Storage of music
22 Kind of gin
23 Librarians
24 Livestock
25 Arm or leg
26 Flamingo

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Bland
2. Isaac's son
3. Arm or leg
4. Flamingo
5. Frank
6. Anne
7. Second part of proverb
8. Tallest
9. Weather on damaged things
10. Southsayer
11. Sacred song
12. Time out
13. Waded
14. God of love
15. Mah Jongg piece
16. Sherry display
17. Arab VP
18. Casino city
19. Mr. Pussell
20. Plant
21. Storage of music
22. Kind of gin
23. Librarians
24. Livestock
25. Arm or leg
26. Flamingo

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78 Surveying & Mapping
79 Small Engine Repair
80 Veterinary Assistant
81 TV Radio Services
82 Building Trades
83 General Business
84 Practical English
85 Auto Mechanics
86 Bookkeeping
87 Electronics
88 Electricity
89 Legal Secretary
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92 Child Day Care
93 Drafting
94 Travel Agent
95 Architecture
96 Machine Shop
97 Engineering
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Jarryd, Gilbert to San Francisco finals

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Unseeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden upset fifth-seeded Kevin Curren 3-6, 7-6, 7-5, to gain the finals of the \$25,000-dollar Volvo of San Francisco Tennis Tournament on Saturday.

Third-seeded Brad Gilbert will face Jarryd in the finals Sunday. Gilbert, who lost the final here in 1984 to John McEneaney, narrowly defeated New Zealander Kelly Evernden, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6. The explosive Evernden had scored the tournament's most shocking upset by beating no. 2 seeded Michael Chang of Placentia, California.

Gilbert holds a 4-1 career edge of Jarryd, winning their last meeting in Los Angeles last week. With no service breaks in the third set, Gilbert won the tiebreaker 7-2.

"Kelly played some lousy points in the tiebreaker," said Gilbert, who will be seeking his fifth title of the year. "And I served well. I came up with first serves when I needed them."

"But the match was really won in the second set when I made adjustments to my game. He has weeks when he is hot. I was fortunate to win."

Coming from behind, Jarryd said he grew stronger as the match progressed.

"I picked up my game a little bit," he said. "This surface (an indoor rubberised sheet) suits my game very well. The way I'm

playing now I am very confident."

The match was a battle of current doubles specialists who attained their highest singles rankings, no. 5, back in 1985.

Since then, Jarryd has become the world's top ranked doubles player, while Curren ranks ninth.

Jarryd, ranked 55th in singles, seemed a victim of bad breaks from the first point when he served a double fault and vigorously protested a line call that cost him. He lost the game and Curren, ranked 24th, held his own serve into the ninth game when he again broke Jarryd for the 6-3 set.

Jarryd, whose last singles title was over Boris Becker in 1986 in the WCT Dallas finals, broke Curren three times in the second set but couldn't then convert serving opportunities, as Curren broke back three times.

Staying on serve into the tiebreaker, Jarryd grabbed a 4-0 lead. Curren fought back to lead 5-4, but Jarryd evened the score, producing an unreturnable serve and a steaming crosscourt backhand passing shot to win the tiebreaker 7-5.

The third set seemed to be Jarryd's. He held 4-1 with an early break out Curren broke back and put the match back on serve until the 12th game. Again Jarryd came up with the shots to break him, winning his second match point with an untouchable lob.

INVITATION

All Jordanians who have graduated from Philippine universities and all Filipinos who have received college degrees from Jordanian universities are cordially invited to attend a reception at 4:00 p.m. on Friday Oct. 27, 1989, at the Philippine Embassy in Jabal Amman, Abbas Aqqad St.

Kindly confirm your attendance by calling telephone nos. 645161/643421 with Mrs. Afaf Dawabeh, not later than Oct. 22.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID RETENDERING OF CONTRACT NO. 5/W/3/89 SHALLALAH NORTH BOYS' COMPULSORY SCHOOL

Date: Sept. 28, 1989
Loan No.: 2841 - Jo
Bid No.: 5/W/3/89

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of a Third Urban Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Shallalah North Boys' Compulsory School. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined under the "Guidelines for Procurement" of the (IBRD) who have been prequalified in October 1988 for Third Urban Development Contracts, and local contractors classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the first and second grade/buildings.

2. The Urban Development Department (UDD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for furnishing the necessary labour, materials, equipment and services for the construction and completion, of the following:
Boy's Compulsory School consisting of a three-storey building with built up area about 1,050 square metres per storey. Individual toilet block consisting of one storey building with a built up area of about 150 square metres.
Site works and infrastructure.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the head of Tendering Division, and inspect the bidding documents at the offices of the UDD, UDD Marka Housing Project, Amman.
Telephone: 899361/62/63
P.O. Box: 927198
Amman - Jordan.
Telex: 22249 UDD JO

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder upon payment of non-refundable fee of JD 100. Additional sets of documents may be purchased each at a price of JD 50.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in an acceptable form of not less than JD 15,000 and must be delivered to the Director General, UDD, P.O. Box 927198, Amman - Jordan on or before 12:00 noon local time, on Oct. 28, 1989.

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of those bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12:00 noon local time, on Oct. 28, 1989, at the offices of the UDD, UDD Marka Housing Project, Amman.
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P.O. Box: 927198
Amman - Jordan.
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Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 677420

THE DAUGHTER OF THE JUNGLE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Tide of E. Germans floods the West

HOF, West Germany (AP) — Special trains from Warsaw and Prague rumbled through the night, carrying thousands of East German refugees to freedom in West Germany Sunday. In Prague, there were reports that the exodus had prompted even more East Germans to try to flee.

An agreement between West Germany and Communist East Berlin cleared the way for the exodus of thousands of East Germans who had been holed up in Bonn's embassies in Warsaw and Prague.

One welcoming banner in the northern Bavarian city of Hof predicted that East German would soon be an "empty coffin." Officials said the total number of refugees arriving from Prague and Warsaw would be around 7,000, far more than originally expected.

Hungary's decision last month to open the floodgates to East German refugees already has brought more than 24,000 people to West Germany via Austria.

The first train carrying East Germans who had sought refuge in the West German embassy in Prague arrived in Hof at 6:14 a.m. (0514 GMT). Many were cheering and weeping for joy.

Two more trains had arrived by 10:30 a.m. (0930 GMT), bringing the total from the first three trains to more than 3,000 people. Three more trains were expected

during the course of the day from Prague, carrying about 1,000 people each.

Earlier estimates were that about 3,500 refugees were expected, although officials in Hof said that figure did not include many of the children accompanying their parents.

In addition, Bavarian border police spokesman Klaus Papenfuss said some East Germans who had not even been at the embassies in either city reportedly went directly to the railroad stations to board the special trains bound for the West.

A train carrying more than 800 East German refugees from Warsaw was expected to reach West Germany at the Helmstedt border crossing late Sunday afternoon.

Meanwhile, West German officials in Prague said that about 100

East Germans had sought refuge at the embassy after the compound was cleared in the early morning hours Sunday.

Witnesses also said that scores of East Germans were rushing to Czechoslovakia in cars after learning of the decision to allow the others to leave. But police ringed the West German embassy in Prague Sunday morning to thwart any more would-be escapees.

Several hundred local residents who gathered to greet the newcomers in Hof applauded and cheered as the train pulled into the station.

Well-wishers handed out bottles of wine, champagne and fruit as the East Germans got off the train. Red Cross volunteers distributed hot tea, noodle soup, baby food and diapers.

The arriving East Germans

were being taken immediately to several refugee processing centres and temporary shelters set up by the West German border police and the military, officials said.

Several former East Germans, who had fled to the West earlier from Hungary, carried a banner that read: "We got out through Hungary and you made it through Prague. Soon the zone (East Germany) will be an empty coffin."

West German law automatically grants East German citizenship on arrival. More than 100,000 East Germans have emigrated or fled to West Germany so far this year.

The East Germans have flooded to West Germany because of disillusionment with political repression and economic stagnation in their homeland.

Byelorussians demand better Chernobyl cleanup

MINSK, Soviet Union (R) — Thousands of Byelorussians, denouncing local leaders, marched through the centre of Minsk Saturday to demand further measures to clean up the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Up to 15,000 protesters wearing armbands with radioactivity symbols and carrying the banned red-and-white Byelorussian national flag filed through torrential rain in defiance of a ban by local authorities.

Later, they gathered in the city centre near government headquarters where speakers demanded the resignation of republican leader Yefrem Sokolov and called for the evacuation of half a million people from contamin-

ated zones. Thirty-one people died in the accident at the Chernobyl plant, which lies a few kilometres south of the Byelorussian border with Ukraine. The number of subsequent deaths due to it is unknown.

"There are calves with two heads being born in the Ukraine. What are our future children going to be like if we are not moved?" said one speaker.

"Seventy per cent of the fallout landed on Byelorussia, but we got only one tenth of the money to clean it up," said another protester. "It is a disgrace. The government thinks it can do what it likes."

Speakers said children were dying of leukaemia as a result of

the accident and demanded the trial of Nikolai Sinyukov, a current member of the ruling Soviet Politburo, who was Byelorussian Communist Party leader at the time of Chernobyl.

The protest was rare and unusually large for Byelorussia, an industrialised republic of just over 10 million people in the western Soviet Union, where the conservative Communist Party leadership has long clamped down on dissent.

Despite the ban, police did not try to break up the march and quickly abandoned attempts to clear crowds from the central square. There were no initial reports of arrests.

Their treatment of the march

was in contrast to the use of water cannon and tear gas to break up a meeting last October in the city at the site of a mass grave of the victims of dictator Josef Stalin.

Saturday's marchers accused authorities of underestimating the extent of the world's worst nuclear accident, failing to inform the population of its consequences and ignoring the extent of cancer and other diseases.

About 100,000 people have been evacuated from affected areas in the Ukraine and Byelorussia and experts estimate that half a million people in Byelorussia alone are under medical supervision.

They predict the number will rise because they say authorities have failed to halt the sale of

contaminated food.

In August, the official TASS news agency said one third of the republic was still affected and suggested a further 100,000 should be moved from their homes.

A report by a government commission released this week showed serious shortcomings in the handling of the consequences of the disaster and pledged more action to safeguard residents' health.

Saturday's protest was organised by the Byelorussian Popular Front, a mass movement which held its founding congress this year in neighbouring Lithuania because it had been refused permission to stage it in Minsk.

In July, the Communist Party daily Pravda roundly criticised the Byelorussian party, accusing it of using outdated methods and of being out of touch with the people.

The front has called for greater economic autonomy from Moscow, state status for the Byelorussian language and full information on the Chernobyl disaster.

Pakistan slips back quietly into Commonwealth

ISLAMABAD (R) — Britain's envoy in Islamabad reversed the brass plaque outside his residence Saturday night as Pakistan slipped quietly back into the Commonwealth after a 17-year absence.

Ambassador Nicholas Barrington became high commissioner at midnight in line with practice in the 49-member association of former British colonies.

When the sign denoting the home of the "British ambassador" was removed from the wall, Barrington found "residence of the British high commissioner" engraved on the back.

The plaque was apparently a relic from 1972 when Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took Pakistan out of the Commonwealth in protest at its recognition of breakaway Bangladesh.

The late Bhutto's daughter, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, has taken it back in. She was coincidentally leaving last Sunday on a visit to Bangladesh, which seceded from Pakistan after a bloody civil war in 1971.

Bhutto will also attend the Commonwealth summit in Malaysia Oct. 18-24.

Pakistan's re-entry into the Commonwealth passed largely unremarked. The only formal recognition was a small midnight reception hosted by Barrington at the renamed high commission.

He and nine other Commonwealth heads of mission took their transformation from ambassador to the less-glamorous high commissioner in good spirit.

"High commissioner is a rather special designation. It designates a special family relationship," Barrington said. "Pakistan's voice has been absent for too long."

"It's a new beginning in the old family," added Iqbal Akhund, Benazir Bhutto's special adviser on foreign affairs.

Commonwealth diplomats said that while membership brought some tangible benefits like student scholarships, its main value was as a forum for debate and cooperation between governments on a wide range of issues.

Pakistan's return was blocked for years by its traditional foe India. But New Delhi dropped its objections when Bhutto's election last year put an end to 11 years of military rule in Pakistan.

Printers of visiting cards and headed notepaper in Islamabad are profiting from the change. Commonwealth consul-generals now become deputy high commissioners and defence attaches become defence advisers.



Emeralds worth \$300,000 stolen from luggage

ZURICH (R) — About 600 emeralds worth around half a million Swiss francs (\$300,000) were stolen from the hand luggage of a Colombian flying from Milan to Zurich, police said Saturday. The man could not say whether the jewels had been taken from his travel bag at Milan airport or removed from the overhead locker on the aircraft where he left the bag while he snoozed. On Friday 1.3 million marks (\$800,000) in banknotes were stolen from a parked car in Zurich. The owner had left the money in a plastic bag.

Balloonist misses Red Square

MOSCOW (R) — A Danish balloonist and a Soviet student tried to land in Moscow's Red Square this week but were blown off course by strong winds, the Communist Party daily Pravda said Saturday. The two, described by the newspaper as "air hooligans," touched down near the Ring road on the outskirts of Moscow Wednesday, but only after forcing traffic controllers to alert the pilot of a passing Tupolev passenger jet. Pravda said the two, whose exploits recalled those of West German teenage pilot Mathias Rust, took off from Moscow's Gorky Park. "They wanted to demonstrate what they called their 'peace-loving aspirations' by flying over the Kremlin and landing in Red Square, but the wind interfered," it added. "The flight of rust and other lapses, both recent and long ago, have taught us little," the article said, calling for tighter control of the skies. The newspaper did not make clear the fate of the two balloonists, nor reveal any more details about them.

Famous Florence fountain vandalised

FLORENCE (AP) — A vandal broke off pieces of horses' heads from the marble Neptune Fountain on Florence's Piazza della Signoria, authorities said Saturday. The fountain, which was erected in 1563 and 1575, sits on the square which has been the hub of Florentine life since the Middle Ages. The fountain was restored in 1981, only to suffer repeatedly at the hands of vandals in recent years.

KGB arrests racketeering students

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet KGB security police have arrested a racketeering group of students who tried to extort 15,000 rubles (\$23,400) from a Moscow cooperative, TASS news agency said. The group, which threatened violence if the cooperative did not pay the money, turned out to be students at a Moscow college. TASS did not say how many were involved and none was identified by name. The firm told police and the KGB detained the racketeers as they were picking up the cash. Many people who run cooperative businesses, a new venture in private enterprise permitted under Kremlin reforms, get visits from gangsters demanding protection money, according to Soviet media reports.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	15	50 Cloudy
ATHENS	17	23	81 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	27	31	80 Clear
BANGKOK	25	31	80 Rain
BUENOS AIRES	12	25	57 Clear
CAIRO	22	32	72 Clear
CHICAGO	11	26	51 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	14	20	57 Clear
FRANKFURT	13	26	61 Cloudy
GENEVA	09	16	63 Cloudy
HONG KONG	24	29	82 Rain
ISTANBUL	14	20	68 Clear
LONDON	12	15	64 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	17	26	82 Clear
MALDIVES	10	24	75 Cloudy
MECCA	23	32	80 Clear
MONTREAL	08	17	63 Cloudy
MOSCOW	04	20	54 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	21	33	80 Clear
NEW YORK	11	20	60 Clear
PARIS	13	19	63 Cloudy
ROME	15	24	77 Clear
SYDNEY	14	21	61 Clear
TOKYO	19	24	75 Clear
WEDNA	16	21	61 Clear

M indicates missing information

Referendum proposed on future of U.S. bases in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Support is growing for a referendum on the future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines, with political analysts seeing it as a way of undercutting Senate opposition to continued American presence. Ramon Mitra, speaker of the House of Representatives, says the house will pass a bill this week calling for a national referendum despite opposition by influential members of the Senate.

Leaders of the powerful Roman Catholic Church have also voiced support for the referendum.

"I think the people should be consulted," Cardinal Jaime Sin, archbishop of Manila, told reporters Friday, adding he believed many Filipinos supported retention of the bases.

President Corazon Aquino agreed to hold talks with Washington on the future of the bases in December, after U.S. President George Bush formally

asked her to open negotiations in a letter last week.

U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle delivered the letter and said after a meeting with Aquino he was confident the United States would secure a new lease for the Clark air and Subic Bay naval bases which would guarantee them a long existence.

The lease on the bases, America's largest off U.S. soil, expires in 1991. Washington sees them as important for the stability of Asia

and defence of the Indian and Pacific oceans.

But at least half the Philippine Senate, which must ratify any new treaty, opposes the bases and some have called for an immediate U.S. withdrawal.

Aquino, who will meet Bush in November, has not stated her opinion but Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos says he favours a gradual withdrawal, possibly over 10 years.

Battle of the widows casts dark shadow over Philippines

By Ruben Alabastro

MANILA — A battle over a corpse between two tough-willed widows has cast a dark shadow over the Philippines, widening divisions in a country already torn by armed rebellions and riddled with poverty. Imelda Marcos, dubbed the "iron butterfly" in her days of power as wife of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is fighting to bring her husband's body out of exile for burial in his hometown.

President Corazon Aquino, who sent the Marcoses fleeing to Hawaii after a 1986 peoples' revolt, is using her state power to keep out the corpse, citing security reasons.

In an ironic reversal of roles, Aquino is counting on her army and the United States for support while Imelda Marcos is banking on the courts and the "people power" tactics which helped topple her husband after a 20-year rule.

Only four days after Marcos' death in Hawaii, some Manila newspapers have begun speculating on a possible duel between Aquino and Mrs. Marcos in the 1992 presidential election.

The battle between the Philippines' two most celebrated women has split the country, sparking debates in the legislature and coffee shops about whether a man should be denied burial in his homeland.

"In death as in life we are now divided, from senate to marketplace... by the passing of this elemental force," columnist Sylvia Mayuga wrote in the Daily Globe newspaper.

Twice in four days Aquino has been assured by army generals that they can handle any violence from Marcos supporters. She has also secured a ban from Washington on any aircraft trying to fly the body home.

Marcos' lawyers are filing a petition with the Supreme Court to challenge the ban on the body's return, and diehard Marcos loyalists plan to hack the court action with protest marches to further increase pressure on Aquino.

Officials said one government worry was that if Marcos were allowed a funeral in the Philippines extremist right-wing groups might provoke violent incidents to destabilise Aquino.

"Aquino's decision was not

reached in a vacuum," said one official who asked not to be identified. "One bad incident here and you create a perception in the international community of instability in the Philippines."

"This is an extraordinary situation that needs an extraordinary response."

A political novice before a popular revolt against Marcos thrust her into the presidency, Aquino has shown toughness when pushed against the wall. In 1986, her then Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who is widely believed to nurse presidential ambitions, attacked Aquino repeatedly in public for being a weak leader.

As rumours swept the capital that army officers loyal to Enrile would stage a coup, Aquino rallied some generals behind her and fired her maverick defence chief, halting a brewing army revolt.

A year later, rebel soldiers attacked her presidential palace, seized television stations and announced Aquino would fall in a few hours.

Aquino refused to abandon her besieged palace and ordered a counter-attack, quelling the fifth and bloodiest

of five coup attempt against her and sending rebel officers underground.

Marcos' death has come as Aquino's popularity begins to falter. Her administration is dogged by rising inflation, growing unemployment, resurgent attacks by Communist rebels and threats from Muslim guerrillas to resume a dormant separatist war in the south.

Aquino is proud of having restored democracy to the Philippines and said Friday she did not want the return of Marcos' corpse to wreck her achievements of the past three-and-a-half years.

Aquino has presided over an economic recovery, organised three elections, made the judiciary independent, ensured a free press and, while failing to end corruption, has made it easier to expose.

"You have become a symbol not only in your country for democracy, but around the world," said U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle during a Manila speech last Wednesday.

The battle over the corpse is the latest in a long saga of enmity between the two families.

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